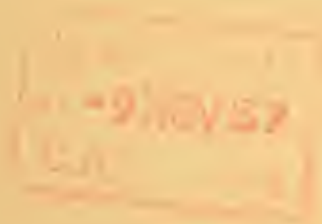


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BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

*15/11/57*

**REPORT**  
**on the**  
**Health of Oldbury**

For the Year 1956

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The Midland Printing Company, Limited, Simpson Street,  
Oldbury



Borough of Oldbury



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
and  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
For the Year 1956.

---

Medical Officer of Health:  
**HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

Chief Public Health Inspector:  
**WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.**

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**PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.**

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The Midland Printing Company, Limited, Simpson Street,  
Oldbury

## BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

### MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

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ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A., *Chairman*.  
ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman*.  
ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.  
ALDERMAN G. W. ROSE, J.P.  
COUNCILLOR J. D. BEARD, COUNCILLOR A. GUNN, C.C.  
M.B.E., C.C. „ MRS. R. STARKIE  
„ W. CARTER „ B. H. TARR  
„ MRS. M. E. „ F.W. THOMPSON,  
GARRATT, J.P. J.P.

---

### OLDBURY AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

#### County Council Representatives:

MR. J. W. BRIGHT, J.P., C.A.  
SIR W. HUGH S. CHANCE, M.A., F.I.I.A., C.A.  
MR. H. PARKES, J.P., C.A.  
MR. S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A., *Chairman*.  
SIR CHAD T. WOODWARD, D.L., J.P., C.A.  
MRS. J. F. GOODE, C.C.

#### Oldbury Borough Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.  
ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman*.  
ALDERMAN G. W. ROSE, J.P.  
COUNCILLOR A. GUNN, C.C.  
COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. J. GUNN, J.P., C.C.  
COUNCILLOR W. HAYES, C.C.

#### Co-opted Members:

DR. W. H. SHILVOCK.  
COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE (representing the  
Oldbury Committee for Education).  
MRS L. RILEY (representing the Oldbury W.V.S.)

**STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

**Medical Officer of Health:**

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**Deputy Medical Officer of Health:**

D. M. BLOMFIELD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.  
(Commenced 1.8.56)

**Assistant Medical Officer:**

**Divisional Dental Officer:**

JAMES RODGERS, D.F.M., L.D.S., R.F.P.S.  
ALMA M. FACER, L.D.S. (Part-time).

**Chief Public Health Inspector:**

WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.i.)

**Ophthalmic Specialist (Part-time):**

GUY F. G. SIGGINS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

**Senior Health Visitor—School Nurse:**

Miss M. R. CLARKE (c.d.e) (Commenced 1.5.56)

**Health Visitor—School Nurses:**

Miss H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e). Mrs. F. MEIRING (c.d.e)  
,, B. M. LAMB (c.d.e.) (Resigned 14.4.56)  
,, E. M. L. FREESTONE Mrs. M. BARRASS (c.d.e.)  
(c.d.e.)

**Senior Midwife/District Nurse:**

Miss E. F. E. MONK (c.d.e.j.)

**Municipal Midwives:**

NURSE M. M. BISHOP, (d.e.) NURSE K. STENNETT (d.e.f.)  
,, B. EWINGS (d.e.) ,, A. M. WILLIAMS (d.)  
,, H. GALLAGHER (d.e.)

District Nurses:

MRS. S. J. GALLAGHER (e.)	MRS. L. I. BAKER (g.)
,, E. L. YARRANTON (g.)	MISS M. BASTERFIELD (g.)
M. A. GREEN (c.j.)	J. GILLARD (c.j.)
	(Commenced 17.56)

### Day Nursery:

*Matron:* MRS. C. E. M. DAWSON (d.e.)  
MISS V. CADDICK.  
MISS A. E. BRETTELL (Resigned 30.4.56)  
MISS P. MURRAY (Commenced 11.4.56)

### Sanitary Inspectors:

Deputy Chief—F. W. KEENE, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.k.)  
*Additional*—F. J. ANDREWS, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)  
 A. GILPIN, B.Sc. (Econ.),  
 M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.i.) (Resigned 13.2.56)  
 E. N. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)  
 C. C. WILKES, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,  
 (a.b.) (Commenced 8.5.56)

**Clerical Staff:**

### Health:

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY  
Senior Clerk—T. K. BOSTON  
Miss D. M. PLEAVIN  
,, P. ROBERTS  
,, S. PARTINGTON  
,, E. YORK  
,, I. THOMAS

### Sanitary:

*Chief Clerk—*  
F. W. HACKETT  
Miss M. CALLCOTT  
D. G. TAYLOR  
(Resigned 31.7.56)  
A. G. SABIN  
(Commenced 22.10.56)

## NOTES.

- (a) Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Board.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
- (e) State Registered Nurse.
- (f) Holds the Midwives Teachers' Diploma.
- (g) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (h) Diploma of the Institute of Public Cleansing.
- (i) Honours Certificate of the Institute of Hygiene
- (j) Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
- (k) Holds the Smoke Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health.**  
For the Year 1956.

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**To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the  
Borough of Oldbury.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of the Borough for the year 1956.

**Staff.**

During the first half of the year we were fortunate in being able to obtain the services of Drs. I. Schubert, B. Henly, J. Calder, H. Humphreys, J. Briant and E. Carter, working on a sessional basis at the Clinics. Thanks to them, we were able to maintain the medical staffing of the Clinics at all sessions.

Dr. D. M. Blomfield took up his appointment of Deputy Medical Officer of Health on August 1st, 1956, and includes the attendance at Child Welfare Centres with his other duties.

**Infant Mortality.**

Last year a record low rate of 21.88 was achieved. In 1956, out of 803 live births only 15 babies failed to reach their first birthday, giving a rate of 18.67 per thousand live births. In maintaining these favourable rates the work of the Health Visitors in the homes and the clinics is of prime importance and we must ensure that adequate numbers are attracted to this branch of the nursing profession.



### **Tuberculosis.**

The figures for this disease are the most satisfactory the Borough has ever achieved. Not only has the death rate again been halved but for the first time there has been an appreciable reduction in the notification of new cases.

As Dr. Mayfield points out in his report, many factors have contributed to this achievement. While we must avoid complacency, there is room for cautious optimism with regard to the ultimate elimination of this disease which was once one of the most frequent causes of death of young adults.

### **Dysentery.**

The undue prevalence of this disease during the year was once again attributable to a school outbreak: on this occasion at Titford Road Infants' School. Fæcal specimens were examined from all infected children and, when these were positive, specimens from family contacts were obtained. Children with positive specimens were excluded from school until one negative specimen was obtained. This mode of control, less rigorous than in previous years and involving less loss of school attendances, was successful in bringing the outbreak to an end.

### **Food Poisoning.**

Apart from two isolated cases these were mainly family infections, in one case all seven members of a family were affected. These outbreaks are usually due to unclean food but it is difficult to prove this as, by the time the Department is notified, all the suspected food has usually been disposed of in most instances.

It would be impossible, even with a full staff of Public Health Inspectors, to keep constantly under supervision all food handlers but fortunately the majority are very conscious of the desirability of hygienic methods in the preparation and sale of food and are anxious and willing to benefit by the advice given by the Inspectors. Now that the Food Hygiene Regulations are in force it is more than ever necessary to fill the vacant post of Additional Public Health Inspector so that adequate time can be given to bringing the recalcitrant minority of food premises up to the required minimum standards for safety.

### **Immunisation.**

Life to our children must seem to be an endless series of pin-pricks but, however inconvenient this must be for them, we must count ourselves fortunate that we can now offer them protection from so many diseases. Smallpox, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough,



Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis are the commoner diseases against which we can and should protect our children. (There are others with which we need not concern ourselves in this country.) Inoculations against all these, with the exception of Poliomyelitis vaccine, are readily available at clinics, schools and from general practitioners.

In ensuring absolute safety there have been delays in the production of Polio vaccine and supplies up to the present have been severely limited.

### **Housing.**

There was a welcome increase in the number of houses completed during the year, 258 compared with only 73 in the previous year.

This facilitated a good start for the Slum Clearance programme. A total of 93 houses were officially represented as unfit. At the end of the year, however, there were only 292 houses under construction compared with 406 at the end of 1955. If there is to be any diminution in the rate of house building and if it is intended to carry out the entire 10 year slum clearance programme as planned, serious consideration will have to be given to the proportion of the total houses erected to be allocated for the re-housing of people displaced by these procedures.

There has been some reduction in the general waiting list but it may be that it will be found necessary to re-house more tenants of unfit houses and less applicants on the waiting list unless the rate of provision of dwellings is well maintained.

### **The Future.**

In deciding where our greatest efforts to improve the public health should now be directed, it is interesting to compare figures of ten years ago with those of today.

Although the total deaths show little appreciable difference (496 in 1946, 484 in 1956) the significant fact is that of these deaths 115 occurred before the age of 45 years in 1946 and only 47 in 1956. From 45-65 years the number of deaths has increased slightly from 126 in 1946 to 135 in 1956. Over the age of 65 years the deaths in 1946 were 255 and in 1956 they were 302.

From these figures several conclusions may be drawn. The risks of dying before reaching one's 45th birthday have been considerably reduced. More people are therefore surviving to a greater age. In fact, of the 302 people who died over the age of 65, no less than 171 were over 75 and of these 34 were over 85.

But there is still one great hurdle we have to clear and that is the 45-65 year group. It has been said by an eminent surgeon that the normal spell of useful life ceases at the age of 48. If so, some of us are "an unconscionable time a-dying." Nevertheless there has been no diminution in the number of deaths in this age group and analysis of the causes shows little difference in the past 10 years. (One significant difference is the diminution of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and the increase in deaths from cancer of the lung). Deaths at this age are roughly divisible into one third from cancer, one third diseases of the heart and blood vessels and one third bronchitis, pneumonia, accidents, etc.

Our two main targets for prevention must now be cancer and diseases of the heart and blood vessels. The discovery of the relationship between smoking and cancer of the lung may help to reduce the incidence of this condition. Investigations also suggest that heavy smokers are more liable to high blood pressure and coronary thrombosis than non-smokers and there is some evidence that diseases of blood vessels may be related to our dietetic habits.

If good health is to be achieved for all it will be by continuing and intensifying our researches and ensuring the general application of their results with a minimum of delay. We have only to compare our own tuberculosis statistics with those of countries in Africa and the East to realise that delay in application of modern knowledge continues to exact a high toll in human life and suffering.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help and understanding I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. My thanks are also due to members of the staff of the Health Department, medical, nursing and clerical, for their loyal co-operation and to my colleagues in other Departments who have been helpful at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY TABBUSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,  
Greenwood Avenue,  
Langley, Oldbury.  
August, 1957.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation	Sessions	Accommodation
Oldbury I.W.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, Infant Weighing and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley I.W.	" The Hollies," Langley	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Oldbury A.N.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley A.N.	" The Hollies," Langley	Alternate Thurs., 2 p.m.	do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Alternate Wed., 2 p.m.	do.
School Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
School Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
School Clinic	" The Hollies," Langley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Fabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	Monday, 9—4-30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9—12 noon.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Daily, 9—5 p.m.	do.
M. & C.W.	do.	Monday, 6-30 p.m.	do.
Scabies Clinic	Cleansing Station, Brookfields Rd., Langley	By appointment	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Friday, 10 a.m. Alternate Wed. 1-30 p.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
Sunray Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Sunray Clinic	" The Hollies," Langley	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Fabernacle Clinic,	Monday, 10 a.m.	do.
Chest Clinic	Chest Clinic, Greenwood Av. Langley	Monday, 11 a.m.—12 noon and 2—4 p.m. Friday, 11—12 noon	do.

## 1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ... ..	3,304
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1956)	54,840
Population (Census 1951) ... ..	53,887
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.56 ... ..	15,775
Rateable Value (1st April, 1956) ... ..	£575,608
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£2,340
General Rate—1955-56 ... ..	15s. 6d.
Unemployment—31st December, 1956:—	
Wholly unemployed—	
Men and Boys ... ..	78
Women and Girls ... ..	49
Temporary stoppage—	
Men and Boys ... ..	5
Women and Girls ... ..	3

## 2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

				M.	F.	Total	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	413	374	787
		Illegitimate	...	...	7	9	16
Totals				...	420	383	803
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population				...	...		14.64
Area Comparability-Factor							
(Births)	...	...	0.96	Standardised Birth rate...			14.05
Stillbirths	...	...	18	Rate per 1,000 total births			21.92
Deaths	...	...	484	Death rate (Crude)	...		8.82
Area Comparability-Factor							
(Deaths)	...	...	1.42	Standardised Death rate			12.53
				Rate per 1000 Births			
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth was 0				...	...	...	0.00
Death-rates of Infants under one year:—							
All Infants per 1,000 live births				...	...	(15)	18.67
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births				...	...	(15)	19.05
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births				...	...	(—)	00.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				...	...		97
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)				...			3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				...	...		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					...		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)				...	...		Nil

### 3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

				Live Births	Death Rate
England and Wales	...	...	...	15.6	11.7
160 Great Towns	...	...	...	15.6	11.6
160 Smaller Towns, population 25,000 to 50,000 (1951 Census)	...	...	...	15.6	11.6
London	...	...	...	15.9	11.7
OLDBURY	...	...	...	14.05	12.53

#### POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates that 54,840 persons were resident in the Oldbury area at Midsummer, 1956. The "natural increase of population," that is excess of births over deaths, during the year was 317.

#### DEATHS.

In 1956, 283 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. 5 of these deaths were persons not normally resident in the district, and 206 Oldbury residents died outside the district. The aggregate number of deaths for the year was 484, representing a crude death rate of 8.82 per thousand of the estimated population and a standardised death rate of 12.53 per thousand of the population. The corresponding figures for 1955 were 518 total deaths, a crude death rate of 9.49, and a standardised death rate of 12.73.

Of the 484 deaths, 15 were of infants under one year of age, representing an infantile mortality rate of 18.67 per thousand live births. In 1955 there were 16 deaths under one year of age and an infantile mortality rate of 21.88 per thousand live births.

The most frequent causes of deaths, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand of the population were:—

Heart Disease	129	deaths	equivalent	to	a	death	rate	of	2.352
Cancer	97	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.768
Vascular Lesions	92	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.677
Bronchitis	41	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.747
Pneumonia	18	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.328
Tuberculosis (all forms)	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.054

Heart Disease occupies first place as primary cause of death.

#### HEART DISEASE.

Of the 129 deaths recorded as due to heart disease, 102 relate to persons over the age of 65 and only 3 were in respect of persons under 45 years of age.



### CANCER.

For the purposes of comparison the following table gives a summary of the deaths from Cancer, and the age distribution of those deaths during the past fourteen years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 years & over
1943	50,100	48	32	80	1.59	..	..	10	25	45
1944	50,220	32	33	65	1.29	1	1	7	23	33
1945	50,040	42	27	69	1.37	..	..	6	29	33
1946	51,890	47	38	85	1.63	..	1	2	32	50
1947	52,510	62	40	102	1.94	..	..	10	34	58
1948	53,350	42	41	83	1.55	..	..	11	36	36
1949	53,380	45	48	93	1.74	..	..	5	43	45
1950	53,820	49	36	85	1.57	1	..	7	33	45
1951	53,740	39	36	75	1.39	1	..	5	36	33
1952	53,790	46	36	82	1.52	1	1	5	33	42
1953	53,820	36	29	65	1.20	..	..	6	29	30
1954	54,030	53	37	90	1.66	..	1	8	32	49
1955	54,550	41	47	88	1.61	1	1	12	32	42
1956	54,840	54	43	97	1.76	..	..	8	48	41

An analysis of the deaths from malignant disease shows that the site of the cancer causing death was as follows:—

	Site	Male			Female		
		No.	Age Range	Average Age	No.	Age Range	Average Age
1. Intestinal Tract:							
a.	Buccal Cavity	—	—	—	—	—	—
b.	Throat	...	—	—	—	—	—
c.	Oesophagus	...	—	—	1	44	44
d.	Stomach	... 10	41-75	63	7	60-82	69
e.	Cæcum	... 1	67	67	1	68	68
f.	Colon	... 3	67-87	75	6	44-73	59
g.	Rectum	... 6	47-63	54	2	65-67	66
2. Female Generative Organs:							
a.	Uterus	... —	—	—	1	78	78
b.	Cervix	... —	—	—	2	67-78	72
c.	Vulva	... —	—	—	1	64	64
d.	Ovary	... —	—	—	4	55-64	59
3. Respiratory Tract:							
a.	Lung	... 8	40-80	61	1	60	60
b.	Bronchus	... 9	45-69	55	—	—	—
c.	Pleura	... 1	41	41	—	—	—
d.	Larynx	... 1	63	63	1	85	85
e.	Mediastinum	... —	—	—	1	55	55

	Site	Male			Female		
		No.	Age Range	Average Age	No.	Age Range	Average Age
4.	Urinary Tract:						
	a. Kidney	...	—	—	—	—	—
	b. Bladder	... 1	63	63	—	—	—
	c. Prostate	... 4	63-75	70	—	—	—
5.	Brain	... 2	33-58	65	1	36	36
6.	Glands:						
	a. Thyroid	... 1	64	64	—	—	—
	b. Hodgkins Dis.	1	49	49	—	—	—
	c. Liver	... —	—	—	1	55	55
	d. Pancreas	... 3	63-75	68	—	—	—
	e. Breast	... 1	59	59	9	46-92	66
7.	Miscellaneous	... 2	52-74	63	4	32-84	66
Totals ...		54	33-81	60	43	32-82	64

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Diphtheria.

Tables IVa and IVb summarising the work of Immunisation will be found at the end of the Report.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

### Scarlet Fever.

18 cases were notified compared with 72 in 1955. The disease in the main was mild in character and of relatively little significance. Only complicated cases were admitted to Hospital, 1 in 1956, compared with 4 in 1955.

### Pneumonia.

33 cases notified, and 18 deaths reported during the year.

### Influenza.

Four deaths in 1956 compared with 4 in 1955.

### Erysipelas.

Five cases were notified during the year as compared with 1 during 1955.

### Measles and Whooping Cough.

There were 14 cases of Measles and 169 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to these diseases.



*Whooping Cough Immunisation at 31st December, 1956.*

Age at Date of Immunisation	Year of Immunisation									Totals
	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	
0-3 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-6 „	4	9	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
6-9 „	40	42	17	6	2	1	1	—	—	109
9-12 „	122	117	98	47	25	8	9	27	8	461
12-15 „	71	52	38	21	12	9	4	19	11	237
15-18 „	14	13	24	4	3	5	2	3	3	71
18-21 „	6	7	11	2	1	1	1	5	2	36
21-24 „	3	2	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	11
2-3 years	6	8	12	—	5	—	—	2	—	33
3-4 „	4	5	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	14
4-5 „	12	14	4	2	2	1	—	2	—	37
5-6 „	8	13	4	2	1	—	—	2	1	31
6-7 „	3	4	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	11
7-8 „	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	6
8-9 „	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
9-10 „	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
10-11 „	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
11-12 „	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
12-13 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
13-14 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14-15 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	299	294	226	87	52	27	17	64	25	1091

**Meningococcal Infection.**

Four cases were notified and there was one death.

**Infantile Diarrhoea.**

No deaths were recorded from this disease during 1956.

**Tuberculosis.**

The following tables have been supplied by the Chest Physician, Dr. R. B. Mayfield, who comments:—

The first Table gives some account of new cases seen at the Chest Clinic during the year. Nearly half the new cases of tuber-

culosis were revealed by Mass Radiography and the routine examination of contacts, thus emphasising once again the value of these two methods of case-finding.

It should, perhaps, be mentioned, that the number of new cases of tuberculosis seen at the Clinic is rarely the same as the number of cases notified in the year, for various reasons. For instance, now that the bed situation is easier, some patients are admitted direct to sanatorium without prior attendance at the Clinic, possibly after having been seen by the Chest Physician at home or in hospital. Others may receive all their treatment elsewhere, and this applies especially to non-respiratory cases.

Oldbury now has the benefit of Mass Radiography readily available by regular visits of the van to the precincts of the Chest Clinic at fortnightly intervals. This provides easy access to chest radiology by general practitioners and the Medical Officer of Health. It is also very useful for contacts referred from the Chest Clinic, both saving them journeys to hospitals outside the Borough and saving time and expense at the hospital x-ray departments. It may be that regular availability of Miniature Radiography is responsible for the number of cases referred to the clinic by general practitioners compared with the previous year. If so, the reduction is no real loss, but a saving, as it means that a proportion of these cases are sifted before being sent for full examination.

Apart from the above welcome amenity, the x-ray facilities at the Chest Clinic are still deficient. Owing to staffing difficulties at the Hallam Hospital, our patients now travel to Dudley Road Hospital for their x-rays. Our best thanks are due to this hospital (outside the Management Area) for coming to our rescue and shedding light on Oldbury lungs in what threatened to be their darkest hour. There can, however, be no doubt that, for real efficiency, the x-ray should be taken when the patient has his clinical examination, and not on a subsequent occasion in different premises.

The second Table shows the numbers of new contacts examined. It will be noted that an average number of 3.2 contacts of each newly notified case were examined compared with an average of 2.3 in the previous five years. This improvement may be ascribed partly to the ready availability of Mass Radiography, and partly to more settled Health Visiting arrangements than in former years. The unobtrusive work of the Health Visitor as a preventative agent is rather apt to be outshone nowadays by the glamour of Mass Radiography and B.C.G., but both these newer measures depend much on her persistent methodical work and the main credit for the better contact figures is due to her.

Finally, the lower notification rate this year is an encouraging feature. Though it may be true that one swallow does not make a summer, it is justifiable to hope that this may be an omen of better things to come.

### OLDBURY CHEST CLINIC.

*New Cases examined in 1956.*

Source ..	Tuberculous				Non-tuberculous and Observation cases				Totals			
	M	F	C	Total	M	F	C	Total	M	F	C	Total
General Practitioner	3	4	1	8	103	51	24	178	106	55	25	186
Mass Radiography	4	2	0	6	16	8	3	27	20	10	3	33
Contacts ..	4	2	1	7	28	44	68	140	32	46	69	147
Other ..	3	5	0	8	8	6	12	26	11	11	12	34
Totals ..	14	13	2	29	155	109	107	371	169	122	109	400

*Contacts examined in 5 years, 1951 to 1955.*

Year	Men	Women	Children	Totals	Cases Notified T.B.	Contacts per Notifications	Contacts found to be Tuberculous
1951	39	65	87	191	77	2.48	1 (0.52%)
1952	36	51	67	154	66	2.33	3 (1.94%)
1953	20	44	50	114	63	1.81	2 (1.75%)
1954	25	42	91	158	65	2.43	5 (3.16%)
1955	22	34	81	137	55	2.49	6 (4.37%)
Totals	142	236	376	754	326	2.31	17 (2.25%)
Average	28	47	75	150	65	2.3	3.4 (2.26%)
1956	32	46	69	147	46	3.2	7 (4.76%)

*Movements of Patients in and out of Oldbury.*

Year	Transfers in	Transfers out
1953	8	16
1954	19	13
1955	20	16
1956	16	30
Total 4 years	63	75

The table below shows the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1945 to 1956.

*Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—New Cases*

Year	Total	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1945	50	Male	32	1	6	11	7	5	2
		Female	18	2	7	5	3	1	..
1946	81	Male	54	2	19	13	5	10	5
		Female	27	4	11	6	3	2	1
1947	55	Male	32	5	7	3	9	3	5
		Female	23	4	10	2	5	..	2
1948	59	Male	35	4	15	4	6	2	4
		Female	24	6	7	3	3	2	3
1949	65	Male	44	6	7	5	8	7	11
		Female	21	1	6	6	7	1	..
1950	56	Male	38	1	9	11	6	7	4
		Female	18	4	4	6	4	..	..
1951	70	Male	44	5	8	10	3	12	6
		Female	26	6	11	2	2	2	3
1952	54	Male	28	3	3	5	6	9	2
		Female	26	2	6	6	6	3	3
1953	56	Male	30	4	3	5	4	11	3
		Female	26	4	11	4	6	1	..
1954	61	Male	37	3	12	9	4	3	6
		Female	24	4	12	6	..	2	..
1955	50	Male	31	3	4	6	5	3	10
		Female	19	5	6	6	..	..	2
1956	38	Male	22	1	5	6	6	2	2
		Female	16	3	5	2	4	1	1

Eight cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (5 males and 3 females) were notified in 1956.

Cases on the register at the end of the year were as follows:—

	Male		Female	
Pulmonary ...	...	(284) 287	(205)	209
Non-Pulmonary ...	...	(37) 38	(28)	23

Figures for 1955 in brackets.

The following table shows the sex and age groups in which the 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1956. For comparison the table includes the corresponding figures since 1940.

Year	Total	Death Rate	SEX	0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 years & over
1940	39	·77	Male 27	..	4	8	5	5	6
			Female 12	..	6	1	3	1	..
1941	30	·59	Male 17	..	..	6	1	3	7
			Female 13	2	4	2	3	..	2
1942	34	·67	Male 22	..	5	3	4	7	3
			Female 12	..	6	1	5	..	..
1943	42	·83	Male 25	..	3	7	6	7	2
			Female 17	2	7	4	2	1	1
1944	26	·52	Male 13	..	1	4	1	3	4
			Female 13	1	3	1	4	1	3
1945	26	·52	Male 16	..	..	4	2	3	7
			Female 10	..	3	3	2	2	..
1946	38	·73	Male 23	1	2	7	4	2	7
			Female 15	2	2	5	1	2	3
1947	27	·51	Male 20	..	4	4	5	2	5
			Female 7	..	1	3	3	..	..
1948	15	·28	Male 8	..	3	..	1	4	..
			Female 7	..	2	2	3	..	..
1949	28	·52	Male 16	1	2	1	6	3	3
			Female 12	..	5	1	2	1	3
1950	13	·24	Male 8	1	..	..	2	1	4
			Female 5	..	..	3	1	1	..
1951	15	·27	Male 12	..	..	3	..	3	6
			Female 3	..	..	2	..	..	1
1952	13	·24	Male 8	..	..	1	3	2	2
			Female 5	..	..	..	2	..	3
1953	11	·20	Male 6	..	..	2	..	2	2
			Female 5	..	2	..	1	1	1
1954	12	·22	Male 10	..	..	1	1	..	8
			Female 2	..	..	..	2	..	..
1955	6	·11	Male 5	..	..	..	1	2	2
			Female 1	..	..	..	..	1	..
1956	3	·05	Male 3	..	..	1	1	..	1
			Female —	..	..	..	..	..	..



			AGE DISTRIBUTION (YEARS)											WARD DISTRIBUTION								
			TOTALS	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
R E S P I R A T O R Y	M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-56 ...	284	—	9	16	11	29	35	64	55	45	12	8	31	38	47	23	43	58	44	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	22			1		2	3	6	6	2	1	1	4	1	4	1	6	2	4
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	1										1				1				
			Restored to Register...	—																		
			Inward Transfers ...	10			1	1			2	3	2	1				5	1	1	3	
		Deletions	Died ...	5							1		1	2	1	1	2				1	1
			Recovered ...	8		2	1	1		1	3							3		1	1	3
			Diagnosis not confirmed	—																		
	Outward Transfers ...		17					1	4	6	3	2	1			1	10		1	5		
	No. on Register at 31-12-56 ...		287	—	7	17	11	30	33	62	61	46	12	8	34	36	44	25	48	56	44	
	F E M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-56 ...	205	—	14	13	13	33	45	46	27	10	3	1	24	21	40	20	29	42	29	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	16		1		2	1	4	2	4	1	1		5	2	2	2	4		1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	1								1				1						
Inward Transfers ...			5		1					3	1							1		3	1	
Deletions		Died ...	—																			
		Recovered ...	5				1	2		2						1	1	1	1	1		
		Diagnosis not confirmed	1				1										1	1				
	Outward Transfers ...	12		1			5	5		1				1		3	3	1	3	1		
No. on Register at 31-12-56 ...		209	—	15	13	13	27	44	49	32	11	4	1	29	22	38	18	31	41	30		
N O N R E S P I R A T O R Y	M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-56 ...	37	1	9	8	1	3	5	4	4	—	1	1	2	—	7	5	10	7	6	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	5		1	1	1		2						1		2	1	1		
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
			Deletions	Inward Transfers ...	—																	
		Died ...		—																		
		Recovered ...		3		2	1											1			1	1
		Diagnosis not confirmed		1	1																1	
	Outward Transfers ...	—																				
	No. on Register at 31-12-56 ...		38	—	8	8	2	3	7	4	4	—	1	1	3	—	8	6	11	5	5	
	F E M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-56 ...	28	—	4	3	—	—	7	6	2	4	2	—	3	4	8	—	5	3	5	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	3		1		1		1								1		1	1	
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
Inward Transfers ...			1							1										1		
Deletions		Died ...	1									1										
		Recovered ...	7			2			2	2			1		1	1	5					
		Diagnosis not confirmed	—																			
	Outward Transfers ...	1						1												1		
No. on Register at 31-12-56 ...		23	—	5	1	1	—	5	5	2	3	1	—	2	2	4	—	6	5	4		

AGE DISTRIBUTION—All ages are those obtaining at date of Primary Notification

DEATHS—All the deaths removed from Register have not actually occurred during 1956





**National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50.**

On no occasion did the Council have to bear the cost of burial during the year.

**National Assistance Act, 1948, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.**

It was necessary on only one occasion during the year to resort to Section 47 in order to remove, to suitable premises, a person in need of care and attention.

**Mortuary.**

During the year 31 bodies were removed to the Mortuary and in 29 instances post-mortems were conducted.

**Medical Examinations.**

The staff of the department carried out 104 medical examinations for superannuation and employment purposes.

**SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.****Housing.**

Increased housing accommodation is still an urgent necessity in the Borough. Re-housing of tuberculous cases continues to merit top priority, but families living in overcrowded or insanitary accommodation are also given due consideration.

The Housing Manager informs me that he received 301 new applications during the year, divisible into the following groups:—

208 with no children.  
58 with 1 child.  
24 with 2 children.  
8 with 3 children.  
3 with 4 children.

Total applications on Housing Register at 31.12.56 were:—

Sub-Tenants	...	...	...	2,730
Tenants	...	...	...	929

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following figures:—

Number of houses completed by the Corporation	...	258
Number of houses completed by private contractors	...	95
Number of houses completed by Smethwick Corporation	...	Nil
Number of Municipal houses and flats in course of erection		
at 31.12.56	...	292
Number of permanent dwellings erected since 8.5.1945	...	1,777

**Water Supply.**

75 houses in the area are supplied with water from the mains to standpipes or taps in yards serving two or more houses. The approximate population so served is 262. The remaining houses and population in the area receive water from mains direct to individual houses.

Specimen results of analysis by the County Analyst are as follows:—

				Zone 1.	Zone 2.	Zone 3.
<b>Physical Characters</b>	...	...	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	...	...	...	None	None	None
Deposit	...	...	...	None	None	None
pH.	...	...	...	7.7	7.6	7.6

### Chemical Examination.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Solids in solution (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	320	340	364
Solids in solution. After ignition	...	...	...	280	285	287
Chlorine expressed as chloride				47	31	30
Hardness—non-carbonate	...			85	105	120
Hardness—carbonate	...			105	130	130
Hardness, total	...	...		190	235	250
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...			Trace	Trace	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...			0.06	0.07	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...		4.9	7.7	7.7
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...		Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)				0.8	0.92	0.66
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected	None detected	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	...			Nil	Nil	Nil

**Note.**—To convert the above parts per million to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.07.

### Bacteriological Examination.

Probable number of coliform bacilli:—

In two days at 37°C.	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.
Fæcal Coli Type	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.

## SERVICES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

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### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

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**Chief Statistics, 1956.**

**Registrar General's figures.**

Total number of live births during the year	...	...	803
Total number of stillbirths during the year	...	...	18
Live birth-rate 14.64 per thousand population. (Standardised birth-rate 14.05).			

Stillbirth rate 21.92 per thousand live and stillbirths.

Illegitimate live births represent 1.99 per cent. of the total live births in the area.

Infant mortality: 15 children died under the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality rate of 18.67 per thousand live births.

#### **Births.**

The total of 803 live births is divisible into 420 boys and 383 girls, giving a standardised live birth-rate of 14.05 per thousand estimated population.

Of the 803 live births, 16 were illegitimate (7 boys and 9 girls). One illegitimate stillbirth was notified.

#### **Stillbirths.**

There were 18 stillbirths registered during 1956 giving a still-birth-rate of 21.92 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.32 stillbirths per thousand of the population, as compared with 1955, when the number of stillbirths was 17; the stillbirth rate 22.72 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.31 stillbirths per thousand population.

### Premature Births.

Notification of birth cards provide information about babies weighing 5½-lbs. or less at birth.

WEIGHT AT BIRTH	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home & transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and trans- ferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days
(A) 3 lb. 4 oz. or less .. ..	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(B) Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. ..	9	2	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(C) Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. ..	9	—	9	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
(D) Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. ..	17	—	17	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	39	3	34	11	—	11	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	5	1

### Infantile Mortality.

There were 15 deaths of infants under one year of age and 11 of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. This is equivalent to an Infant Mortality rate of 18.67 per thousand live births.

The corresponding figures for the previous twelve years are:—

1943	...	45	„	or 41.02	„	„
1944	...	40	„	or 37.18	„	„
1945	...	34	„	or 33.59	„	„
1946	...	36	„	or 35.80	„	„
1947	...	38	„	or 36.22	„	„
1948	...	38	„	or 41.34	„	„
1949	...	30	„	or 34.12	„	„
1950	...	25	„	or 30.30	„	„
1951	...	19	„	or 24.51	„	„
1952	...	18	„	or 24.09	„	„
1953	...	25	„	or 31.05	„	„
1954	...	22	„	or 29.53	„	„
1955	...	16	„	or 29.53	„	„

An analysis of the causes of death of infants will be found in the following table:—

*Infant Mortality during the Year 1956*  
*Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.*

Cause of Death	Days		Total under 1 week	Weeks 2 - 3	Total under 4 weeks	Months		Total under 1 year
	0 - 1	1 - 2				1 - 2	5 - 6	
Pneumonia						1		1
Gastro-Enteritis						1		1
Congenital Heart	1		1		1	1	1	3
Atelectasis	2		2		2			2
Prematurity	3	2	5		5			5
Intracranial Haemorrhage	2		2		2			2
Congenital Haemorrhage				1	1			1
TOTALS	8	2	10	1	11	3	1	15



### Perinatal Mortality Rate.

The following table gives the Oldbury and the England and Wales Rates for the past ten years.

Year	Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)		Neonatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births)		Perinatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)	
	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales
1956	21.92	23.0	13.69	16.9	35.32	39.4
1955	22.72	23.2	16.41	17.3	38.77	40.1
1954	15.85	23.5	24.16	17.7	39.63	40.8
1953	27.77	22.5	16.14	17.7	43.47	39.6
1952	19.68	22.7	14.72	18.3	34.12	40.6
1951	17.74	23.0	16.77	18.8	34.21	41.4
1950	20.19	22.7	24.24	18.5	43.94	40.7
1949	18.97	22.7	21.61	19.3	40.16	41.5
1948	13.94	23.2	22.85	19.7	36.48	42.4
1947	26.90	24.1	19.06	22.7	45.45	46.2

### Illegitimate Live Births.

The Illegitimate Live Birth Rate shows a decrease on the figure for the previous year.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	% of Total Live Births
1956	16	.29	1.99
1955	23	.42	3.14
1954	25	.46	3.35
1953	32	.59	3.97
1952	27	.50	3.61
1951	28	.52	3.54
1950	38	.70	4.51
1949	44	.824	5.26
1948	30	.562	3.26
1947	36	.685	3.43
1946	53	1.023	5.14
1945	54	1.079	5.21
1944	28	.557	2.52
1943	31	.618	2.73
1942	23	.469	2.24
1941	18	.364	2.08
1940	13	.266	1.37

**Maternal Mortality.**

There were no deaths during 1956.

**Midwives Act, 1936.**

An indication of the work undertaken by the Domiciliary Midwives during the year can be obtained from the following table:—

YEAR	CONFINEMENTS					Hospital Discharges before 14th day		Domiciliary cases wholly Breast Fed at 14th day	NATAL VISITS	
	DOCTOR BOOKED				Total					
	No		Yes							
	Present at Delivery		Present at Delivery							
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Cases	Visits	Ante	Post	
1953	—	41	42	242	325	254	687	214	2328	22
1954	—	17	40	218	275	338	926	218	2124	26
1955	—	16	21	261	298	314	989	218	1482	2
1956	—	7	20	259	286	459	1313	212	1622	—

**Gas and Air Analgesia.**

This service was made available to all expectant mothers from May, 1948. Out of 286 domiciliary cases, 205, or 71.6 per cent. availed themselves of the opportunity during the year, as compared with 62.7 per cent. in 1955.

**Notifications Received from Midwives.**

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Sending for medical aid	...	...	182
Artificial feeding	...	...	49
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	1
Death of mother and/or child	...	...	—
Laying out of dead	...	...	—

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified to the Department.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

There were 2 cases during the year.

**MEDICAL AID.**

Medical aid was summoned by Midwives on 182 occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of the requests received is set out on the next page. In 180 instances a Medical Practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service.



**Mother—**

Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	51
Enlarged breast	...	...	...	9
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	9
Post-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	5
Delayed labour	...	...	...	7
Albuminuria	...	...	...	3
Premature labour	...	...	...	5
Breech presentation	...	...	...	4
Episiotomy	...	...	...	5
Toxæmia	...	...	...	2
Raised blood pressure	...	...	...	10
Lowered blood pressure	...	...	...	1
Anæmia	...	...	...	1
Phlebitis	...	...	...	3
Retained placenta	...	...	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	13
Total				130

**Child—**

Discharging eye	...	...	...	24
Cyanosis	...	...	...	7
Bleeding from cord	...	...	...	4
Jaundice	...	...	...	2
Prematurity	...	...	...	1
Septic spots	...	...	...	3
Talipes	...	...	...	1
Dehydration	...	...	...	1
Nasal obstruction	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	8
Total				52

**Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases.**

The total number of births notified as having occurred in Hospitals, etc., outside the Borough was 531.

	Living.	Stillborn.
Hallam Hospital West Bromwich	332	8
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	22	—
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Selly Oak	18	—
Birmingham General Hospital	1	1
St. Chad's Hospital	107	2
Ronkswood Hospital	4	—
Marston Green Hospital	1	—
Solihull Hospital	1	—
Dudley Road Hospital	5	1
Selly Oak Hospital	1	—
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home	5	—
Lordswood Maternity Home	4	—
Poplars Maternity Home	17	—
Other private addresses	1	—
Totals	519	12

### Ante-Natal Clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Number of Sessions	25	26	26	26	25	26	76	78
New Ante-Natal Cases .. ..	49	59	77	80	58	57	184	196
Total attendances	196	259	406	372	228	229	830	860
Average per Session .. ..	7.8	9.9	15.6	14.3	9.1	9.1	10.9	11.0
Hospital booking only .. ..	89	99	123	115	57	72	269	286

The number of 184 new cases is 22.4 per cent. of the total registered births for the district.

Routine blood samples for the investigation of the Rhesus Factor, Wasserman Reaction and Hæmoglobin estimation are now taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the results so far obtained undoubtedly justify the continuance of this procedure. This service is available to the patients of General Practitioners on request.

### Infant Welfare Clinics.

The three clinics at Langley, Oldbury and Warley continued to serve the Borough throughout the year. Two sessions per week were held at Langley and Warley, and one session per week at Oldbury.

596 babies under the age of 1 year attended the Clinics for the first time. This represented 74.2 per cent. of the registered live births. 12 children between 1 and 2 years and 47 children between the age of 2 and 5 years attended the Clinics for the first time during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Clinics.

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
New Cases:—								
0-1 years ..	108	111	259	231	229	225	596	567
1-2 years ..	1	2	4	10	7	7	12	19
2-5 years ..	5	6	13	17	29	36	47	59
Total ..	114	119	276	258	265	268	655	645
Seen by Doctor:—								
0-1 years ..	411	486	940	1,040	719	870	2,070	2,396
1-2 years ..	50	92	100	199	108	140	258	431
2-5 years ..	49	63	64	122	97	169	210	354
Total ..	510	641	1,104	1,361	924	1,179	2,538	3,181
Attendances:—								
0-1 years ..	2,064	1,600	4,091	4,098	3,612	3,541	9,767	9,239
1-2 years ..	374	429	1,095	1,239	975	1,111	2,444	2,779
2-5 years ..	343	281	913	1,115	1,298	1,277	2,554	2,673
Total ..	2,781	2,310	6,099	6,452	5,885	5,929	14,765	14,691
Number of Sessions ..	49	48	103	104	100	100	252	252
Average Attendance ..	56	48	59	62	58	59	58	58
Children attending in 1956 (1955)								
Who were born in:—1956 (1955) ..	113 (104)		228 (207)		202 (188)		543 (499)	
Who were born in:—1955 (1954) ..	91 (84)		190 (187)		170 (165)		451 (436)	
Who were born in:—1954-51 (1953-50) ..	81 (99)		192 (223)		231 (246)		504 (568)	
Total Children attending in 1956 (1955) ..	285 (287)		610 (617)		603 (599)		1,498 (1,503)	

### Post-Natal Clinics.

Attendances are, on the whole, disappointing, but this is now largely due to the obligation of Doctors under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to carry out routine post-natal examinations on their Maternity cases.

### Work of the Health Visitors.

During the year 12,746 visits were made to homes in the district and 682 sessions were taken up by attendance at Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Centres.

The work undertaken by the Health Visitors can be summarised as follows:—

	First visits	Total visits
Expectant Mothers ... ..	185	216
Children under 1 year of age ... ..	759	3,433
Children age 1 and under 2 years ... ..	—	1,931
Children age 2 and under 5 years ... ..	—	4,976
Tuberculosis households ... ..	—	1
Other cases ... ..	—	1,019
Ineffective visits ... ..	—	1,170
	Total	12,746
No. of children under 5 years visited during 1956		3,438
No. of families or households visited during 1956		3,007

### Voluntary Committees.

A Voluntary Committee operates at each Infant Welfare Clinic and they render valuable social and clerical service to the community. Their efforts in maintaining the happy relationship at our clinics and successfully arranging social functions in the form of outings, sales of work and competitions are very much appreciated.

### Sale of Dried Milk and Other Foods.

During the year dried milk and other foods to the value of £1,847 19s. 1d. were sold at the Welfare Clinics.

### Distribution of Welfare Foods.

The distribution of welfare foods formerly undertaken by the Ministry of Food continued during the year from the Infant Wel-

fare Clinics and also from the Central Depot established at the Offices, Greenwood Avenue, Langley, Oldbury.

During the year the following items were distributed:—

National Dried Milk—Full Cream	...	13,345	tins
Half Cream	...	249	tins
Cod Liver Oil	...	3,932	bottles
Vitamin A and D Tablets	...	1,776	packets
Orange Juice	...	23,829	bottles

### Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the findings of medical inspections during 1956:—

Physical condition—Satisfactory	...	272	(95.7%)
Unsatisfactory	...	12	(4.3%)
Total	...	284	

Defects found and referred for treatment:—

Skin	...	1	Heart and Circulation	...	1
Eye Defects	...	2	Lung Defect	...	3
Ear Defect	...	3	Developmental	...	3
Nose and Throat	...	11	Orthopædic	...	1
Defective Speech	...	—	Nervous System	...	—
Psychological	...	—	Abdomen	...	—
Lymphatic Glands	...	—	Other Defects	...	1

### Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Clinics noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye conditions are sent to Mr. Guy F. G. Siggins, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic.

During 1956, 23 cases attended and the following conditions were found to have been present in 23 new cases:—

Strabismus	...	16
Ptosis	...	1
Corneal Ulcer	...	1
Nystagmus	...	1
No defects found	...	4



### Pre-School Children and Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

The amount of Dental treatment given to Pre-school children and Expectant and nursing mothers was greater than in previous years. In the case of Pre-school children, 110 little patients were treated. Conservative treatment was carried out for 63 teeth, 91 children were given General Anæsthetics. It is an unfortunate fact that from the dental point of view, this important group is the most neglected in the community.

The extra care and attention spent on these children is amply rewarded by their successful introduction to Dentistry.

The work done for Expectant and nursing mothers has increased in scope and amount by several hundred per cent. All sessions throughout the year were fully booked up and there is no doubt that the extension of this service was a valuable contribution to the health of this priority class.

			Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Children under five years
New Patients: Examined	...	...	88	135
Requiring treatment	...	...	87	117
Patients Treated: First visits	...	...	87	110
Subsequent visits	...	...	276	31
Made dentally fit	...	...	74	104
Scale and gum treatment	...	...	47	—
Fillings	...	...	124	48
Silver nitrate treatment	...	...	—	15
Crowns or inlays	...	...	—	—
Extractions	...	...	347	263
General anæsthetics	...	...	15	91
Dentures provided: Full	...	...	33	—
Partial	...	...	20	—
Radiographs	...	...	25	—

### Family Planning.

The Oldbury and District Family Planning Association continued their sessions at the Warley Clinic, Bleakhouse Road, Warley, each Wednesday from 6-30—7-30 p.m.

150 new patients attended during the year, the source of reference is set out in the following table:—

Source			
Health Visitors and Midwives	...	...	26
Local Doctors	...	...	54
Other Patients already attending	...	...	43
Newspaper advertisements read by	...	...	2
Transferred from other clinics	...	...	15
Notice in Health Brochure	...	...	3
Referred by Hospitals	...	...	1
Members of Committee	...	...	6

### MOAT ROAD DAY NURSERY.

The Day Nursery fills a very real need in the Borough. The majority of children in attendance are admitted on social grounds and ordinarily would be deprived of normal home life.

The following table shows the attendance during 1956.

	Number of Attendances		Average Attendances	
	Weekday		Weekday	
	Under 2 years	Over 2 years	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
January .. ..	99	165	4.50	7.50
February .. ..	79	181	3.76	8.62
March .. ..	103	184	4.68	8.36
April .. ..	69	147	4.31	9.19
May .. ..	109	191	5.19	9.08
June .. ..	94	255	4.47	12.14
July .. ..	55	255	2.75	12.75
August .. ..	38	176	2.53	11.73
September .. ..	68	258	3.40	12.90
October .. ..	69	311	3.00	13.52
November .. ..	51	314	2.32	14.27
December .. ..	13	243	0.81	15.19
Totals .. ..	847	2680	3.54	11.21

### Home Nursing.

At the end of the year the equivalent whole-time nursing staff was  $6\frac{1}{2}$ . The following table summarises the work carried out during the year:—

	<i>Cases Attended</i>	<i>Visits Paid</i>
MEDICAL .. .. .	463	18,073
SURGICAL .. .. .	78	3,875
INFECTIOUS DISEASE .. ..	2	17
TUBERCULOSIS .. .. .	9	364
MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS ..	10	112
OTHER CASES .. .. .	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	562	22,441
AGE OF PATIENT AT FIRST VISIT	OVER 65	227
	UNDER 5	8
PATIENTS WHO HAD MORE THAN 24 VISITS IN YEAR .. ..	177	18,870



### Home Helps.

This service is organised by the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Service and during the year domestic help was provided in 11 maternity cases, 2 tuberculosis cases, 84 chronic sick cases and 32 domestic cases. There were 24 part-time and 1 whole-time Home Helps employed at the end of the year.

### Vaccination.

The following table gives details of the number of primary vaccinations carried out during the past seven years:—

Year	Under 1 year	AGE 1-4 years	GROUP 5-14 years	15 years & over	Clinic	General Practitioner	Total
1949	118	75	8	7	20	188	208
1950	191	15	5	13	42	182	224
1951	245	26	4	8	127	156	283
1952	219	11	4	8	121	121	242
1953	245	16	14	9	138	146	284
1954	239	12	7	9	115	152	267
1955	217	17	10	6	126	124	250
1956	208	13	1	6	107	121	228

### Immunisation.

In all 510 children were immunised in 1956, 406 under 5 years of age and 104 between 5 and 15 years of age and in addition 1,247 reinforcing injections were given, mainly to children aged 5 and 9 years.

Details of the state of Immunisation at the 31st December, 1956, are shown in Tables IVa and IVb.

### Borough Ambulance Service.

During the year 9,896 ordinary cases, 586 accident cases, 8,055 children to the occupational centre, and 340 maternity cases were transported. The total mileage covered was 66,286.

The vehicles include 1 Austin "Welfarer" Ambulance, 1 Austin "Sheerline," 1 Austin Sitting Case Ambulance, 1 Morris Ambulance (27 h.p.) and 1 Morris (16 h.p.) Ambulance.

The accident cases can be divided into:—

279	Road Accidents
124	Works „
156	Home „
27	School „

Personnel at the Ambulance Station are on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on call on rota from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The number of cases transported between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year was 17,967 and 910 between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

TABLE I.—Corrected Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1956.

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole District												Total Cases Notified in each Ward						Total cases re- moved to Hospital			
	At Ages—Years												Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley		Bristnall		
	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65									65 and upwards	
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	2	3	8	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	6	...	1	2	5	18	...
Whooping Cough	23	9	21	19	26	68	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	8	68	6	26	31	16	169	5
Measles	...	3	1	3	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	3	5	1	14	...
Pneumonia	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	5	5	12	3	5	4	5	2	4	7	6	33	...
Dysentery	...	6	6	5	4	35	5	1	...	12	7	2	...	1	...	39	3	30	6	6	85	1
Food Poisoning	2	...	3	2	...	3	2	...	...	1	6	...	...	1	7	2	...	6	2	1	19	2
Ophthalmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	1	1	4	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	5	1
Poliomyelitis—Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals	35	20	32	32	34	119	16	5	1	20	20	15	5	23	26	132	12	70	54	37	354	12



TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATH. 1956

Cause of Death	Detailed List No.—	All ages			AGE GROUPS															WARDS						
		TOTAL	M	F	0—4 months	4—12 months	1—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75—85 years	85 and over	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	001—008	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	
2.     "          other .. ..	010—019	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
3. Syphilitic disease .. ..	020—029	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...		
4. Diphtheria .. ..	055	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
5. Whooping cough .. ..	056	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
6. Meningococcal infections .. ..	057	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...		
7. Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	080	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
8. Measles .. ..	085	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases ..	Rest of 001—138	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...		
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	151	17	10	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	7	2	...	2	1	...	3	1	4	6	
11.     "          "          lung, bronchus ..	162, 163	18	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	7	2	2	...	3	3	4	4	1	2	1	
12.     "          "          breast .. ..	170	10	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	2	1	...	1	3	2	2	...	2	
13.     "          "          uterus .. ..	171—174	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. ..	Rest of 140-203, 205	49	26	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6	17	12	7	1	8	5	10	8	7	7	4	
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia.. ..	204	5	3	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	
16. Diabetes .. ..	260	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	330—334	92	40	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	15	24	37	8	19	13	14	6	15	10	15	
18. Coronary disease, angina .. ..	420	46	28	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	19	9	2	5	11	9	2	4	7	8	
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	440—443	12	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	...	1	2	5	1	1	...	2	
20. Other heart disease .. ..	Rest of 410—443	71	32	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	5	15	37	8	10	10	11	7	16	8	9	
21.     "          circulatory disease .. ..	444—468	14	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	5	3	1	1	2	3	...	3	3	2	
22. Influenza .. ..	480—483	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
23. Pneumonia .. ..	490—493	18	8	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	8	5	2	4	2	...	...	4	3	5	
24. Bronchitis .. ..	500—502	41	30	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	11	15	8	4	6	3	3	7	6	7	9	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system..	470—475, 510—527	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum .. ..	540—541	5	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ..	543, 571, 572, 764	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	590—594	7	3	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	610	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	640—689	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	
31. Congenital malformations .. ..	750—759	3	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	Rest of 001—795	32	16	16	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	4	5	5	3	2	2	7	6	5	2	8	
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	E810—835	9	6	3	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	1	1	3	...	1	2	1	
34. All other accidents .. ..	E800—802, E840—963	10	6	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	1	4	...	1	3	1	1	1	...	3	
35. Suicide .. ..	E963, 970—979	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	E964, 965, 980—999	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	TOTALS ..	484	263	221	14	1	1	3	2	1	2	4	19	47	88	131	137	34	68	65	81	53	74	60	83	



TABLE III.  
*Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality—1956.*

Area	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (Ex. Still-) births)	Deaths of Infants under One Year	DEATHS FROM							Coro- nary Dis. Angina Pectoris
					Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuber- culosis (All Forms)	Influ- enza	Acute Polio- myelitis	Pneu- monia	
ENGLAND AND WALES	15.6	22.9	11.7	23.8	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.06	0.00	0.52	1.67
GREAT TOWNS (160) ..	15.6	23.0	11.6	24.0	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.04	0.00	0.57	1.68
SMALLER TOWNS ..	15.6	22.7	11.6	24.1	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.45	1.71
LONDON ..	15.9	20.2	11.7	21.4	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.04	0.00	0.67	1.70
OLDBURY ..	14.0	21.9	12.5	18.6	0.32	—	—	0.05	0.03	—	0.32	0.83

LIVE BIRTH and DEATH RATES per 1,000 population  
STILL BIRTH RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births  
INFANT MORTALITY RATES per 1,000 related live births

MATERNAL MORTALITY

RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	
England and Wales	0.55
Oldbury	0.00



TABLE IVa. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st DECEMBER, 1956

Year of Birth	Estimated Population at Mid 1956	Immunised at 31/12/56		% Immunised During					Total Immunised During		Immunity Index $100 \times 9/1$
		No.	%	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Last 5 years	1951 or earlier	
Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1956	777	28	3.60	—	—	—	—	3.60	28	—	3.60
1955	737	321	43.55	—	—	—	7.06	36.49	321	—	62.88
1954	717	410	57.18	—	—	5.72	45.74	5.72	410	—	
1953	776	557	71.77	—	7.34	54.89	7.86	1.67	557	—	
1952	726	571	78.65	6.20	58.81	8.40	3.72	1.52	571	—	
1951-42	9,380	8,691	92.63	4.95	17.61	16.21	14.26	14.24	6,310	2,381	67.27
Totals	13,113	10,578	80.66	3.88	16.29	15.62	13.77	12.95	8,197	2,381	62.51

**TABLE IVb—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st December, 1956**

COLUMN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
YEAR OF BIRTH	YEAR OF IMMUNISATION (PRIMARY OR BOOST)															Total Immunised at age in Col. 17	Age at Date of Immunisation (Years)
	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942		
1956	28 174	52 219	41 280	57 309	45 128	19 64	4 52	18 104	15 42	6 17	2 15	1 9	3 18	3 18	3	1,746	0-1
1955	95 35	109 41	146 41	118 19	50 17	61 27	26 11	40 19	54 11	58 12	96 29	96 41	109 52	112		1,525	1-2
1954	6 8	20 14	20 7	6 9	7 3	8 1	4 2	7 8	7 4	11 4	6 9	23 9	29			232	2-3
1953	5 3	13 5	4 12	4 31	4 11	4 7	— 8	2 13	1 4	3 10	13 21	19				197	3-4
1952	8 169	9 117	18 70	23 104	13 20	4 13	2 5	7 13	5 10	14 99	7					730	4-5
1951	277 78	359 128	378 150	381 244	46 81	35 45	14 60	24 95	47 73	85						2,600	5-6
1950	25 9	14 14	23 14	47 9	25 12	46 4	13 14	32 29	14							344	6-7
1949	5 5	4 7	3 8	6 8	5 3	11 8	4 3	11								91	7-8
1948	8 25	11 24	8 13	11 14	4 1	2 5	1									127	8-9
1947	449 255	394 218	400 227	443 192	17 15	23										2,633	9-10
1946	3 7	8 6	7 9	18 14	2											74	10-11
1945	10 8	7 12	117 52	69												275	11-12
1944	1 1	1 —	—													3	12-13
1943	1 —	—														1	13-14
1942	—															—	14-15
TOTALS	1,698	1,806	2,048	2,136	509	387	223	422	287	319	198	198	211	133	3	10,578	
PRIMARY	510	723	817	824	717	706	*568	1,021	754	918	779	838	861	1,821	1,814	Immunisations in the Borough	
BOOSTER	1,247	1,225	1,387	1,726	667	555	*403	373	217								

\*Immunisation suspended from July to November.





TABLE V.—VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1891

YEARS	POPULATION (R G's Mid. Year Est.)	RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION						Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS		
		LIVE BIRTH *		DEATH *		PHTHISIS DEATHS				Matern- al Mortal- ity	STILL BIRTH	
		Oldbury	E. & W.	Oldbury	E. & W.	No.	Rate	Oldbury	E. & W.		Old- bury	Old- bury
1891—1895	21,331	40·82	30·5	21·33	18·7	89	·8344	201·8	151			
1896—1900	25,375	37·82	29·3	16·80	17·7	94	·7411	216·5	156			
1901—1905	25,798	36·28	28·2	17·45	16·0	77	·5969	175·0	138			
1906—1910	28,580	35·75	26·3	17·04	14·7	118	·8257	147·1	117			
1911—1915	33,856	30·12	23·6	15·47	14·3	115	·6793	137·6	110			
1916—1920	38,277	23·47	20·1	12·77	14·4	162	·8464	104·1	90			
1921	37,700	26·4	22·4	11·5	12·1	31	·8222	101·0	83	7·04		
2	38,390	24·8	20·6	11·6	12·9	31	·8074	69·0	77	3·15		
3	39,970	23·5	19·7	11·1	11·6	21	·5388	78·0	69	3·27		
4	40,050	21·9	18·8	9·5	12·2	30	·7490	68·0	75	4·56		
5	40,740	22·1	18·3	10·8	12·2	34	·8344	70·0	75	4·43		
6	42,080	20·4	17·8	9·7	11·6	27	·6415	55·8	70	1·16		
7	43,120	19·4	16·7	11·2	12·3	22	·5102	88·4	69	2·38		
8	33,760	21·7	16·7	11·1	11·7	29	·8589	67·8	65	3·64		
9	34,190	21·7	16·3	12·6	13·4	19	·5557	99·7	74	4·04		
1930	35,000	21·5	16·3	10·8	11·4	36	1·0285	43·9	60	7·80		
1	36,370	20·8	15·8	11·1	12·3	21	·5773	68·6	66	3·86		
2	37,660	19·4	15·3	10·1	12·0	21	·5576	91·5	65	7·87		
3	39,560	17·4	14·4	10·5	12·3	23	·5813	89·7	64	2·83		
4	40,720	19·2	14·8	10·4	11·8	29	·7121	64·0	59	2·43		
5	41,900	18·9	14·7	9·7	11·7	31	·7398	65·6	57	2·40		
6	42,990	19·6	14·8	10·28	12·1	35	·8141	55·6	59	0·00		
7	44,450	18·94	14·9	11·09	12·4	25	·5624	65·32	58	2·24		
8	45,450	19·88	15·1	10·42	11·6	30	·6600	56·41	53	3·19		
9	47,000	18·51	15·0	9·96	12·1	28	·5956	64·59	50	3·31		
1940	48,700	18·74	14·6	11·17	14·3	39	·8008	49·34	55	4·20	38·94	36·1
1	49,390	16·94	14·2	9·98	12·9	30	·6074	70·47	59	1·15	33·48	34·4
2	49,530	19·97	15·8	9·63	11·6	34	·6864	46·51	49	2·92	37·00	33·0
3	50,100	21·89	16·5	9·84	12·1	42	·8382	41·02	49	1·84	35·18	30·2
4	50,220	21·42	17·6	8·86	11·6	26	·5176	37·18	46	2·70	29·75	27·7
5	50,040	20·22	16·1	9·03	11·4	26	·5194	33·59	46	1·93	23·16	27·6
6	51,890	19·32	19·1	9·55	11·5	38	·7322	35·89	43	0·00	26·21	27·2
7	52,510	19·97	20·5	9·54	12·0	27	·5141	36·22	41	2·78	26·90	24·1
8	53,350	17·22	17·9	8·90	10·8	15	·2811	41·34	34	2·14	13·94	23·2
9	53,380	16·46	16·7	13·12	11·7	28	·5245	34·12	32	2·23	18·97	22·7
1950	53,820	14·86	15·8	12·65	11·6	13	·2415	30·30	29·8	1·18	20·19	22·7
1951	53,740	13·84	15·5	12·36	12·5	15	·2791	24·51	29·6	1·26	17·74	23·0
2	53,790	13·32	15·3	11·96	11·3	13	·2416	24·09	27·6	0·00	19·68	22·7
3	53,820	14·35	15·5	10·45	11·4	11	·2043	31·05	26·8	1·20	27·77	22·5
4	54,030	13·23	15·2	11·75	11·3	12	·2220	29·53	25·5	1·32	15·85	23·5
5	54,550	12·86	15·0	12·43	11·7	6	·1099	21·88	24·9	1·33	22·72	23·2
6	54,840	14·05	15·7	12·53	11·7	3	·0547	18·67	23·8	0·00	21·92	22·9

\* These rates are standardised as follows:—

Live Births from ... 1950  
Deaths from ... 1949





BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and

Cleansing Superintendent

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1956.

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W. J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

## BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

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### To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Oldbury.

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Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the third Annual Report of work carried out by the Staff of my Department during the year 1956.

#### Sanitary Inspections.

The number of inspections of, and revisits to numerous classes of premises totalled 6,434 and these visits resulted in the service of 295 notices, as shown below. The figures for inspections, particularly re-inspections, show an increase on those for the preceding year when the comprehensive Slum Clearance Survey was carried out, and may be considered generally satisfactory.

The relatively small number of formal notices served is again a measure of the extent to which the large majority of property owners and others comply with the requests of the Department and the degrees of co-operation achieved by informal contact.

#### Summary of Inspections and Re-visits during 1956.

	Inspec- tions	Re- visits
Infectious diseases prevention (including Food Poisoning) ... ..	24	24
Housing (including Clearance Areas) ... ..	700	865
Overcrowding ... ..	132	41
Water closets and drains ... ..	263	183
Meat and other foods inspection ... ..	209	5
Food premises (excluding ice cream) ... ..	81	52
Dairies and milkshops ... ..	34	10
Keeping of animals and/or poultry ... ..	6	2
Factories ... ..	21	37
Dirty and/or verminous houses and premises ... ..	33	10
Canal boats ... ..	1	4
Tents, vans and sheds (including temporary buildings) ... ..	6	5
Refuse removal and disposal (including tips) ... ..	180	14
Depots (maintenance) ... ..	10	3
Hairdressers' premises ... ..	3	7
Houses let in lodgings ... ..	1	1
Rats and mice nuisances (excluding Rodent Operative's visits) ... ..	111	27
Salvage ... ..	166	4

					Inspection	Re-visits
Food and drugs sampling	...	...	...	...	93	—
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	1,813	—
Water supplies and samples	...	...	...	...	22	13
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	8	7
Atmospheric Pollution (excluding smoke observations)	...	...	...	...	89	79
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	30	—
Ice cream premises—manufacture and/or sale	...	...	...	...	8	3
Foul cellars	...	...	...	...	3	2
Food vehicles	...	...	...	...	5	—
Housing Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	1	1
Noise nuisances	...	...	...	...	11	11
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	2	2
Water courses and canals	...	...	...	...	7	9
Clean Air Exhibition	...	...	...	...	10	—
Food adulteration	...	...	...	...	4	2
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	—	7
Slaughterhouses (excluding meat inspection)	...	...	...	...	2	1
Knackers yards	...	...	...	...	1	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	539	24
Number of interviews	...	...	...	...	334	—
Rag Flock	...	...	...	...	2	—
Markets	...	...	...	...	2	1
					<hr/> 4,967	<hr/> 1,467

#### Summary of Notices served during the year 1956.

				Preliminary	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936:					
Nuisance properties	...	...	...	193	37
Defective water closets (Section 45)	...	...	...	7	2
Proposed work of maintenance on sewers (Section 24)	...	...	...	—	—
Defective drains (Section 39)	...	...	...	9	8
To remove noxious matter (Section 79)	...	...	...	—	1
Smoke nuisances (Sections 101 and 103)	...	...	...	4	—
O.U.D.C. Act, 1929:					
Defective drains	...	...	...	—	22
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	10	—
Factories Act, 1937:					
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	1	—
Housing Act (Section 9)	...	...	...	—	1
				<hr/> 224	<hr/> 71

### Housing.

The Housing Manager informs me that the number of sub-tenants on the live register of applicants for municipal dwellings was 2,730 at the end of the year, a decrease of 293 in the corresponding figure for 1955. This decrease in a figure which has been increasing steadily since the war may point to a general slackening in the demand for Council houses, but it is gratifying to record the erection of 258 dwellings by the Council during the year which has helped considerably to relieve the oft-times intolerable conditions endured by those having to live in overcrowded and slum houses.

#### *Repairs to Houses.*

The position regarding property repairs remained during the year substantially similar to the preceding post-war years, the difficulties in utilising the Housing Act, 1936, having in no way diminished. As will be seen from the Tables below, a considerable and satisfactory amount of repair work was, however, carried out, mainly under the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

		By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	...	226	Nil
After formal notice under			
(a) Public Health Act, 1936	... ..	26	5
(b) Housing Act, 1936	... ..	—	—

#### Summary of defects remedied, improvements effected and nuisances abated under the Housing, Public Health and O.U.D.C. Acts during the year 1956.

Houses cleansed and/or repaired under the Public Health Act, 1936	... ..	121
Houses provided with improved ventilation and existing windows made to open	... ..	—
New windows provided and others repaired	... ..	4
Staircases repaired or new provided	... ..	1
Handrails provided	... ..	—
New floors provided and others repaired	... ..	11
Firegrates repaired or new provided	... ..	8
New doors provided and others repaired	... ..	—
New sinks provided	... ..	—
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	... ..	4
Water supply—burst water pipes repaired or new provided	... ..	19
Water supply improved	... ..	6

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	...	...	323
New drains and/or inspection chambers provided (excluding new houses)	...	...	8
Inspection chambers repaired or new covers provided	...	...	4
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	3
Water closets repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	19
Water closets provided with new pedestals	...	...	10
Defective water closets cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	16
Defective spouting repaired or disconnected or new spouting provided	...	...	42
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	52
Dangerous chimneys rebuilt or repaired	...	...	5
Courts, back-yards or approaches paved or repaired	...	...	5
Wash-houses repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	16
Walls weatherproofed externally	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	17
Houses made fit under Housing Act, Section 9	...	...	1

#### *Certificates of Disrepair.*

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received during the year. It has been obvious for a very long time that property owners as a whole have considered the financial inducements to repair their properties under this Act as inadequate and have either not sought the limited increase at all, particularly in the case of the poorer houses, or, having been served with a Certificate of Disrepair, have been unwilling to execute the almost invariably large amount of work necessary to put the property into that state of "good repair" demanded by the Act.

The rent provisions of the 1954 Act, therefore, quickly became a dead letter and it occasioned little surprise from the technical aspect when the controversial Bill, now the Rent Act, 1957, was introduced by the Government in an attempt to provide the necessary inducement to owners to repair their properties. Time alone will show whether the ultimate objective of the new Act, viz., the rescue of large numbers of private houses from slumdom, will be achieved.

#### *Slum Clearance.*

As will be seen from the Table below, the first full calendar year since the formulation of the Slum Clearance programme witnessed the first real attack on the slum problem in the district since the enforced cessation of activities in 1939. This work only commenced in earnest in April, 1956. 78 house were officially represented and included in Clearance Areas of which 50 were the subject of Clearance Orders and 28 of Compulsory Purchase Orders.

12 houses were represented as Individual Unfit houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, for demolition and 3 for



closing either under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, or Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The total number of houses officially represented for slum clearance action can be considered fairly satisfactory but was only achieved by deploying one Inspector practically whole-time on these duties. No objections were made by owners in respect of Individual Unfit houses and no alternative undertakings to Demolition Orders were submitted. The time which normally elapses between representing an individual unfit house and the final demolition or closing of the property contrasts sharply with the corresponding time for properties included in Clearance Areas. The delay in securing the clearance of the properties in the latter case is usually protracted, particularly when objections are made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Two official hearings by Inspectors of that Ministry were held during the year as a result of objections to the inclusion of properties in Clearance Areas but the Council's proposals were confirmed by the Ministry with only one minor modification. Despite new procedure designed to accelerate slum clearance action, delay in confirmation of Orders remains considerable and it is difficult to understand, therefore, why the Ministry require reports on houses in Clearance Areas for which no objections are lodged.

During the year the Housing (Subsidies) Act and the Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act were enacted. The former made provision for a new subsidy of £22 1s. od. per annum over a period of 60 years for each new dwelling built to rehouse persons from houses in Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit houses, etc. whilst at the same time reducing, and providing for the eventual abolition of, subsidies for houses built for general purposes. The provisions of Section 85 of the Housing Act, 1936, require Local Authorities to let a reasonable proportion of their houses to slum tenants and this new financial provision only endorses the existing law and is, therefore, to be welcomed.

The Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act has sought to provide some redress to those persons who between September 1939 and December 1955 were forced by the serious housing situation to purchase sub-standard properties to provide some form of home for their families. The Government has, in my view, rightly seen that some compensation should be given with certain conditions to this limited class of owner-occupiers for the loss of their properties which, although they may be almost worthless in terms of bricks and mortar, nevertheless had to be bought in a large number of cases at extortionate prices. Recent experience shows that the compensation values are reflecting those prices and should in no way infer that the properties, by commanding such relatively high compensation sums, are not unfit for habitation. No property is lightly scheduled for slum clearance action by the Department and all houses will continue to be judged solely by the standard laid down in Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

**Housing.**

Number of houses or parts of buildings officially represented as unfit for human habitation ... ..	93
Number of individual unfit houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made or informal undertakings to demolish given (Section 11, Housing Act, 1936) (including 6 Council owned properties) ...	10
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ... ..	5
Number of parts of buildings in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	1
Number of houses included in official Clearance Areas (Section 25, Housing Act, 1936) ... ..	78

**Houses Demolished.**

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
<i>In Clearance Areas.</i>			
Houses unfit for human habitation ...	—	54	10
Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ... ..	—	—	—
Houses on land acquired under Section 127, Housing Act, 1936 ...	—	—	—
<i>Not in Clearance Areas.</i>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	40	85	24

**Unfit Houses Closed.**

Under Sections 10 and 11, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ... ..	3	15	4
Under Section 3, Housing Act, 1949 ...	—	—	—
Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 ...	1	5	2

**Overcrowding.**

Considerable attention again continued to be given by the Council to cases of overcrowding in the Borough. 41 cases were relieved (involving the rehousing of 193 persons) out of 131 cases reported to the Health Committee.

These figures are very satisfactory in view of the Council's heavy commitments in other directions.

### *Improvement Grants.*

At the beginning of the year the work of dealing with Improvement Grants was transferred to the Borough Surveyor as a temporary measure, although approval of grants continued to be dealt with by the Health Committee. This important branch of the Department's duties which is appropriately and rightly the work of the Public Health Inspector, had regrettably to be relinquished owing to the shortage of staff and the severe pressure of other duties. It is to be hoped that adequate staff can be recruited quickly so that the Department can resume this important and rewarding work.

### **Drainage and Conservancy.**

Of over 16,000 premises of all types in the Borough only 10 houses, 6 factories and 2 lock-up shops are not connected to a public sewer, all by reason of inaccessibility.

There are only 14 pail closets and 4 cesspools in the Borough and there are no waste water closets.

Sewage from all other premises continues to be dealt with by the Council's Sewage Works, the Upper Stour Valley Main Drainage Board, Tame and Rea Drainage Board and West Bromwich Corporation (5 premises only).

### **Water Supply.**

The water supplied to the whole of the Borough by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company remained satisfactory during the year, 14 samples for bacteriological examination and 16 samples for chemical analysis taken by the Department having been satisfactory. 2 samples taken for suspected excessive cupro-solvency proved negative. Only 75 houses are supplied with water from stand-pipes or taps in yards serving 2 or more houses, all other properties having water actually in the houses or inside wash-houses.

### **Canals and Water Courses.**

Towards the end of the year one brook course was discovered contaminated by white silt. The pollution was particularly severe after heavy storms and investigation revealed that it was due to inadequate interception of waste enamel "frit" at one enamelling works. The firm has undertaken to improve their drainage and interception of this material on their premises before discharge of surface water to this brook course.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

#### *Milk Supply.*

The number of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949-1954 during the year was as follows:—

Bottling Establishments (T.T. Milk)	...	...	1
Pasteurising Plants (H.T.S.T.)	...	...	1
Retailers—Pasteurised	...	...	33
Sterilised	...	...	105
T.T.	...	...	26
			<hr/>
			166
			<hr/>

35 samples of pasteurised milk were taken from the sole pasteurising dairy in the Borough for chemical analysis and for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory. 26 samples of pasteurised whipping cream were taken from this dairy for bacteriological examination and of these only 4 were unsatisfactory. These figures show a marked improvement on those for the preceding year due to cleaner and better methods of handling following intensive advice and sampling by the Department. Of 7 other cream samples separated outside the District, 3 were unsatisfactory bacteriologically. There is no doubt that the bacteriological condition of fresh cream in general leaves much to be desired and a bacteriological standard for cream, difficult though it may be, is urgently needed.

17 samples of cream taken for chemical analysis conformed to the required standard and here the picture is much more satisfactory.

#### *Meat and other Foods Inspection.*

The following Tables show details of inspections, condemnations of meat, etc., at the sole licensed private slaughter-house in the Borough. 1956 was the first full year in which slaughtering and meat inspection were resumed after re-conditioning of the premises in 1955. Although a second butcher (in addition to the owner) slaughtered during the year at the slaughter-house, no meat inspection had to be carried out outside normal working hours. The general quality of animals killed was very good and only one complete carcass—that of a small pig—was condemned.

Only 6 pigs were killed on unlicensed premises and these were all satisfactory.

The quantities of other foodstuffs inspected and condemned showed little difference from the figures for 1955.

#### *Disposal of Unsound Meat and Food.*

Carcass meat and offals in large quantities were disposed of by the Department to one of the offensive trade premises in the District where dry rendering of animal tissues is carried on. Small amounts of offal were disposed of, after staining, by the slaughter-house owner direct to the above disposal premises. All other unsound foodstuffs were disposed of in the Council's Refuse Tip, Taylors Lane.

No large or special consignments of food were inspected during the year.



## Meat and other Food Condemnations for the Year 1956.

					Weight		
			T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Carcase Meat and Offal (from sole Private Slaughterhouse in district) ...	...	...	1	1	1	26	8

## Other Foodstuffs:—

No. of tins, pkts., etc						Weight		
			T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Ozs.	
	Carcase Meat (other than above) ...	...			2	0	22	0
8	Ham ...	...				2	27	13
	Bacon ...	...			1		22	8
130	Meat ...	...		3	2	23	11	$\frac{3}{4}$
4	Tongue ...	...				18	12	
499	Fruit and Fruit Juice ...	...		9	1	7	3	$\frac{1}{2}$
26	Soups and Broths ...	...				21	12	$\frac{1}{2}$
131	Milk and Cream ...	...		1	0	0	2	
243	Vegetables ...	...		2	2	2	14	$\frac{1}{2}$
73	Fish ...	...				14	3	$\frac{3}{4}$
	Sausage and Sausage Meat ...	...			1	25	0	
	Dried Fruit ...	...				1	8	
65	Sauces and Pickles ...	...			1	3	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
23	Marmalade, Jams, etc. ...	...				21	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
80	Cereals, etc. ...	...		2	2	18	11	
6	Margarine ...	...				3	0	
3	Tea ...	...					12	
	Lard ...	...				1	0	
2	Coffee ...	...					14	
2	Honey ...	...				2	0	
	Cheese ...	...		1	1	14	0	
41	Miscellaneous ...	...				15	1	
			2	7	0	13	10	

## Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	... 386	12	62	1,052	1,022	—
Number inspected ...	... 386	12	62	1,052	1,022	—

All diseases except

*Tuberculosis & Cysticerci*

(1) Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—
-----------------------------------	-----	---	---	---	---	---	---



# II

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
(2) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	155	—	—	199	220	—
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	40.15	—	—	18.91	21.52	—

## *Tuberculosis only*

(1) Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	21	—	—	—	42	—
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	5.44	—	—	—	4.10	—

## *Cysticercosis*

(1) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Meat Inspection, 1956.

### *Reason for Condemnation*

#### (1) Cattle (including Calves)

Disease	Car-cases	Head and Tongue	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Kidneys	Mesenter- ies	Thick Skirts
Tuberculosis ...	—	2	6	—	1	—	12	1
Abscesses ...	—	—	4	—	6	—	—	—
Fascioliasis ...	—	—	—	—	114	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts ...	—	—	4	—	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Congestion and Pleurisy ...	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis ...	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	1
Pentastomes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Telangiectasis ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	—	4	29	3	126	1	18	2

## (2) Sheep.

Disease	Lungs	Livers	Hearts
Pneumonia and Congestion ...	48	—	—
Parasitic Infections ...	52	89	—
Tumours ...	—	—	2
Blood Splashing ...	—	—	3
Melanosis ...	2	—	—
Abscesses ...	1	—	—
Hydatid Cyst ...	—	1	1
Totals	103	90	6

## (3) Pigs.

Disease	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Mesenter- ies	Hearts	Kidneys	Udders (Sows)	Car- cases
Tuberculosis ...	29	6	5	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Congestion and Pleurisy ...	—	126	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cyst ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pericarditis ...	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Parasitic Infection ...	—	2	55	—	—	—	—	—
Hydro-Nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
Abscesses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	29	134	80	2	7	9	1	1

*Food Premises.*

The following food businesses were carried on in the Borough during the year:—

Wholesale Grocers	...	...	...	...	2
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers (including sausage manufacturers)	...	...	...	...	46
Grocers (retail)	...	...	...	...	111
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	36
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	18
Fish Shops (Fried and Wet)	...	...	...	...	20
Sweets, Confectionery and Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	76
General	...	...	...	...	39
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	108
Food Factories (2 confectionery, 1 vinegar)	...	...	...	...	3

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The following food premises were registered by the Council at the end of the year:—

(a) *Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:*

Sausage Preparation	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Manufacturing	...	...	...	...	3
Retail Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	115

(b) *Under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954:*

Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(c) *Under Section 69 of Oldbury Corporation Act, 1949:*

Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	1

55 inspections (including 13 re-inspections) of registered premises were carried out during the year.

The total number of inspections of all types of food premises was 188 which, whilst an improvement on the figure for 1955, is still inadequate. A start was, however, made during the year to bring food premises to the standard of hygiene laid down by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, but the general routine supervision of food premises cannot be effectively carried out whilst staff shortage continues and priority must be given to other duties. For these reasons also it has not proved possible to undertake organised educational lectures to the food trades which, together with and not at the expense of enforcement duties, are essential to secure a real improvement in food hygiene standards.

92 bacteriological swabs were taken of crockery, cutlery, etc., in catering establishments of which 15 were unsatisfactory. Such swabs are an invaluable guide to the efficiency of the washing-up methods which are invariably good whilst the Inspector is actually on the premises but which, in some establishments, may leave a lot to be desired at other times, and bacteriological evidence strengthens the hands of the Inspector in dealing with such premises.

*Ice Cream.*

The 3 manufacturers in the Borough again relied entirely on Complete Cold Mixes during the year. All 12 samples taken from their premises for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were very satisfactory. Heat treatment plant at one ice cream premises was again not used during the year.

*Food and Drugs Sampling.*

The number of samples taken for chemical analysis during the year (excluding ice cream) was 169 of which only 2 were adulterated. These were 2 informal samples of pork sausage, the meat contents of which were below the suggested minimum of 65 per cent. In view, however, of the absence of precise legal standards,

no action other than admonitory action was taken against the vendors.

The number of samples taken shows a substantial decrease on that for 1955 and again reflects the extent to which priority was given to other duties. The figure, however, meets the recommendation of the appropriate Ministry of 3 samples per 1,000 population.

**Samples taken for chemical analysis under Food and Drugs  
Act, 1955.**

Article sampled	No. of samples	Article sampled	No. of samples
Milk (excluding fresh cream) ... ..	71	Colouring ... ..	1
Fresh (whipping) cream	17	Potato bleach .. ..	1
Ice cream and ice lollies	17	Pepper ... ..	1
Margarine ... ..	5	Ginger .. ..	1
Butter ... ..	1	Dried skim milk powder	1
Dripping ... ..	1	Chewing gum ... ..	1
Cooking fat ... ..	1	Condensed milk ... ..	1
Baker's edible fat ... ..	1	Health salts ... ..	1
Imitation cream ... ..	1	Soft drink crystals ... ..	1
Yoghourt .. ..	1	Coffee & chicory essence	1
Orange drink ... ..	2	Baking powder .. ..	1
Sausages ... ..	5	Flour ... ..	1
Sugar confectionery (including chocolate) ...	14	Curry powder ... ..	1
Fish paste .. ..	2	Lemonade ... ..	1
Tea ... ..	2	Ginger beer ... ..	1
Sugar ... ..	2	Beer ... ..	1
Treacle ... ..	1	Alcoholic spirits ... ..	3
Honey ... ..	2	Castor oil ... ..	1
Vinegar ... ..	1	Ammoniated mercury ointment ... ..	1
Sauces ... ..	3	Cod liver oil ... ..	1
Gravy Browning ... ..	1	Sulphur tablets ... ..	1
Soups .. ..	1	Indigestion tablets ... ..	2
Fruit pie ... ..	1	Cough mixture ... ..	1
Jelly ... ..	1	Orderlies ... ..	1
Marmalade .. ..	1	Suppositories .. ..	1
Glace cherries ... ..	1		
Fruit flavouring ... ..	2	Total ... ..	186

*Foreign Bodies in Food.*

7 cases of foreign bodies in, or contamination of, food manufactured outside the Borough were dealt with, a considerable increase compared with previous years. Only one case, that of a

decomposing mouse body in a bottle of milk, was serious but in view of the conflicting evidence and other circumstances, no legal action was taken even after a laboratory examination of the mouse body had been carried out.

In other cases, strong warnings were issued. There is no doubt, however, that this type of offence has considerably increased since the war and is due in the main to the increasing mechanisation of so many processes in the food trades together with labour problems.

#### *Administration.*

During the year the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 came into operation, the former mainly as a consolidating measure, and the latter as something new in food hygiene legislation. A pamphlet summarising the provisions of the Regulations was sent out to every food trader in the District and some work was being undertaken voluntarily by most traders by the end of the year. At this time already some deficiencies and anomalies were apparent in the new Regulations but, despite these, the general verdict must be that they are a good step forward to improving local and national food hygiene standards and a great advance on the poor standards laid down by the old Section 13 of the 1938 Act.

The Council will no doubt wish to adhere to its policy of interviewing food traders where co-operation is not being secured in implementing the new Regulations and of resorting only to legal enforcement when all ways of securing co-operation have been explored and exhausted, which has generally been satisfactory in the past.

#### **Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.**

The following Table summarises the work carried out which, by reason of its somewhat restricted scope, gave rise to few problems. In this Borough the Council's responsibility in the administration of the Factories Act is almost entirely limited to sanitary accommodation by virtue of the fact that well over 90 per cent. of all factories are equipped with mechanical power. It is a little strange to understand why the absence or otherwise of mechanical power in a factory determines whether the Local Authority or the Central Government Department shall enforce duties which in other types of premises are the rightful province of the public health inspectorate, e.g. ventilation, drainage of floors, overcrowding, etc. One may indeed ask why the Public Health Inspector on inspecting a bakehouse is not permitted to deal with temperature and overcrowding, for example, when he must deal with ventilation under different legislation. To this duplication of effort and many other questions concerning factory administration, the answers must remain unsatisfactory at present and the time is surely opportune for an early review of the Acts.



1.—Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	229	21	10	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	20	—	—	—
Total	258	21	10	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1) ...	6	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Section 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	9	1	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15	1	—	3	—

**Offensive Trades.**

Close attention was again paid to the offensive trade premises during the year.

Intermittent complaints were received relating to offensive odours from one of the two main offensive trade factories and the Firm was requested to replace obsolete condensing equipment. A specialist Firm subsequently submitted a scheme and quotation and the matter was receiving active consideration at the year's close. No problems arose from the other three premises during the year.

### Knackers' Yards.

The works of repair and renovation at the sole knacker's yard in the District were completed during the year to comply with the Knacker's Yard Byelaws and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations. A considerable improvement to the premises was effected and a licence, previously withheld, was issued.

### Air Pollution.

The Table below summarises the main improvements effected in this branch of Departmental activities.

#### Air Pollution—Improvements effected during 1956.

Nuisance and/or Source of Air Pollution	Improvement effected and/or action taken
1. Emission of Hydrogen Sulphide gas from one chemical works	Renewal of gas line.
2. Black smoke emissions from boiler plant at one food factory	Installation of new vertical boiler and underfeed mechanical stoker to replace old, hand-fired and overloaded boiler.
3. Nuisance from smoke and fumes from the crude low-level burning of steel polishing sheets at one steel factory	Installation of new modern incinerator to replace crude incinerator.
4. Emissions of dense and black smoke from hand-fired forge re-heating furnace	Installation of new re-heating furnace and mechanical underfeed stoker (first of a series of replacements of old furnaces).
5. Grit and dust emissions from four pulverised fuel fired re-heating furnaces at one foundry	All four furnaces converted to oil firing.
6. Grit and dust emissions from three continuous re-heating furnaces at steel rolling mills using pulverised coal	Furnace hoods repaired. Conversion of furnaces to pulverised pitch firing pending conversion to oil firing.
7. Emissions of dust from manufacture of tarmac and asphalt	Installation of equipment to spray a "wetting agent" at dust producing points, provision of a "wet" washer, screening of primary hopper and provision of water sprays over hopper, provision of gantry and sprays for quenching incoming loads of hot slag, provision of hoses for watering mounds of slag and re-surfacing of approach roadway.

Nuisance and/or Source of Air Pollution	Improvement effected and/or action taken
8. Emission of offensive odours from material deposited outside the district but having arisen from a chemical works in the Borough	Offensive material properly disposed of.
9. Emission of grit from soot-blowing on mechanically fired forced circulation boilers	One boiler fitted with grit arrestors and orders placed for three others to be similarly equipped.

This report of otherwise satisfactory progress in the industrial field of air pollution is marred by the continuing unsatisfactory position in relation to phosphorus fume emission from one large chemical works. No improvement can be reported and indeed little is possible until extraction and arrestation plant, albeit at considerable expense, is installed. The Firm has undertaken to install plant in 1957 at the Oldbury factory similar to that installed at one of the Firm's other works and this installation is patiently awaited. There is no doubt that the feelings of the local population who have continuously to put up with this pungent fume are steadily mounting by the apparent lack of activity by the Firm to abate this grievous nuisance.

During the year persistent complaints were received of smoke and fumes from a non-ferrous metals refining factory. These fumes were emitted at low level inside the factory and were blown down directly from the relatively low chimney onto houses and commercial premises in the vicinity. Means for arresting fumes at the factory were virtually non-existent and, as a result of action by the Department, and an interview between representatives of the Firm and members of the Health Committee, the Company undertook to install in 1957 comprehensive dust and fume collection plant.

Complaints were also received sporadically of black smoke from a brick works manufacturing almost entirely blue bricks. The problem of securing even a small reduction in black smoke from this class of works is severe and is apparently the subject of active research by the appropriate Research Association. Mechanisation of firing offers some hope of improvement particularly in the early phases of firing the kilns but the problem of securing the requisite reducing atmosphere and high temperature in the kilns to produce the necessary chemical and colour changes in the ware remains at present unsolved. It may well be that only the substitution for the conventional old kilns of specially designed kilns and the firing of fuels other than raw bituminous coal will eventually provide an answer, but that remains to be seen.

As a result of the service of a Statutory Notice on one firm manufacturing tarmac and asphalt, the improvements to plant referred to in my report for 1955 were carried out. These improvements were extensive and included an orthodox "wet" dust col-

lector, application of a "wetting agent" to dust producing points on the plant, installation of water hoses and sprays for quenching slag and re-surfacing of a roadway. The factory plant, in the main, is now satisfactory, but the problem of severe dust emission from disturbance of slag mounds by mechanical loaders remains. Attempts are to be made to deal with this by spraying water on to the mounds but the quantity of water which can be added is at present being restricted by the incapacity of an old drier to extract the substantial quantities of water which would have to be added to the slag mounds substantially to reduce the nuisance. At the end of the year the Firm undertook to consider replacing this drier which is an excellent example of how a small matter not directly of public health concern influences the degree of nuisance which is of major public health importance.

Other matters listed on the table presented no insuperable technical problems and constitute a further step in the reduction of air pollution from industry.

In the field of domestic smoke pollution, report of even limited progress is still not possible. Consideration was given to an initial smoke control area under the Clean Air Act but was, however, deferred for a report. The establishment of smoke control areas initially will be difficult due not so much to the technical problems as to the fact that the so-called liberty of the individual will become vitally implicated, even if that same liberty involves pollution of the air we all breathe.

The elimination of domestic smoke will be a long, arduous and in some respects unenviable task, but the provision of modern appliances to burn smokeless fuels can be compared with the formidable task undertaken by Local Authorities and their Officers 50 years or so ago to provide piped water supplies and fresh water closets; amenities which are now taken for granted in built-up areas. The Health Committee is to consider in 1957 the possibility of creating the first smoke control areas in the Borough and it is hoped to report further on this matter in 1957.

The financial provisions in the Clean Air Act provide substantial relief to occupiers who have to adapt or renew appliances to achieve smoke-free combustion of fuel, but nevertheless the total cost of making even a modest initial smoke control area, where appliances have to be adapted, is likely to be considerable.

A Clean Air Exhibition was held in the Town Hall in November, 1956. Although the Exhibition was "live" and interesting and showed new domestic grates actually burning smokeless fuels, it is disappointing to record that attendances were extremely poor, despite the wide dissemination of posters and other literature.

The Clean Air Act, enacted indirectly as a result of the Report of the Beaver Committee and welcomed by all who have clean air at heart, is the first real attempt by legislation in this country to tackle the evils of polluted air. Provisions relating to Smoke Control areas, installation of new furnaces, height of chimneys, etc. came into operation on the 31st December, 1956. The main provisions affecting industry, however, do not come into operation until



a date to be appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, believed to be in the Spring of 1958. The Council also gave early and favourable consideration to making new Building Byelaws regulating the type of domestic appliances in new houses which are expected to come into force shortly.

Finally, it is regretted that the Council has not yet sanctioned the purchase of equipment for measuring air pollution. Such equipment is invaluable not only in measuring accurately the general pollution but of indicating the extent and nature of undue concentrations of existing and new pollutants. It is to be hoped that such equipment will soon be placed at the disposal of the Department.

### Canal Boats.

Little work was carried out during the year in connection with the above and the present position is summarised below in the following Table.

#### Public Health Act, 1936 and Canal Boat Regulations.

Number of canal boats on register	...	...	22
Number of canal boats registered during the year	...	...	—
Number of canal boats inspected	...	...	1
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	1
Total number for which the cabins were registered			3 adults
Total number occupying the cabins	...	...	2 adults
			2 children

### Noise.

No complaints of major noise nuisance were received during the year.

### Verminous Premises.

25 houses (including 10 Council houses) were disinfested for vermin during the year, a decrease of exactly 50 per cent. on the figure for 1955.

Insecticides based on D.D.T., Pyrethrum or Gammexane continued to be used in appropriate cases with satisfactory results, and no serious problems arose.

It is pleasing to report that vermin such as bugs, etc., are now becoming less prevalent as the years pass by.

### Rodent Control.

The work carried out by the Rodent Staff and outlined in the Table on next page was once again satisfactory.

“Warfarin” continued to be the main poison used except in Sewer infestations where Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide were employed.

Only four “major” infestations of rats were discovered and these were quickly dealt with — a true reflection of the success which routine rodent control measures since 1944 have achieved.



### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Column No.	Type of Property				
	Local Author- ity (1)	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	Agri- cultural (5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	47	14,877	1,433	16,357	5
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	11	108	48	167	1
(b) Survey under the Act ...	14	5	16	35	4
(c) Otherwise ...	22	902	282	1,206	—
3. Total inspections carried out— (including re-inspections) ...	58	2,222	945	3,225	5
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats					
Major ...	—	2	2	4	1
Minor ...	5	96	42	143	1
(b) Mice					
Major ...	—	1	—	1	—
Minor ...	11	21	20	52	—
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	16	120	64	200	2
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments ...	24	125	100	249	2
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ...	—	—	2	2	3
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing) ...	—	2	—	2	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following a notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out ...	—	5	—	—	—

### Public Swimming Baths.

Routine sampling of water in the two pools at the Council's Swimming Baths in Vicarage Road was carried out during the year.

8 samples were taken, in all, for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of which 1 was bacteriologically unsatisfactory, due to inadequate chlorine dosage at the commencement of the swimming season.

### Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Note: This section of the report is for the financial year 1956-7 ending 31st March, 1957 and any reference to year should be read accordingly.

#### Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse.

##### *Collection.*

##### (a) *Labour.*

The labour difficulties referred to in my last Annual Report eased somewhat during the year owing to the employment of a contractor who commenced work in March, 1956. This contractor uses one of the Department's vehicles and collection is carried out in an approved and satisfactory manner similar to the other remaining sub-districts in which direct labour is utilised.

A consequent improvement in collections became noticeable in April and by July a weekly collection was achieved which, except for bank holidays and workmen's annual holidays, has carried on throughout the year.

This improvement has, of course, together with two wage increases, one national and one local, resulted in an increased cost of collection. An improved incentive bonus scheme, which commenced in May, 1956, undoubtedly helped materially but in my view the additional cost is fully justified in the better service now provided. In fact during the year I have received many letters of appreciation of this improved service. This is all the more satisfactory when one bears in mind the constant rise in the number of dustbins to be cleansed.

Absenteeism and sickness in the year, amongst collectors only, accounted for the loss of 808 man/days (excluding holidays) against 1,203 in the previous year although of course there were less collection personnel on the nominal strength of the Department.

Approximately 500 tons more refuse was collected than in the previous year.

At the 31st March 1957 the following staff were employed on house and trade refuse collection only:—

Direct Labour—	5 Drivers.
	3 Spare Driver/Refuse Collectors.
	15 Refuse Collectors.
Contractor	— 1 Driver.
	3 Loaders.
	—
Total	27 men.
	—

##### (b) *Trade Refuse.*

It is sometimes not realised by tradesmen and occupiers of business premises that a charge must be made, under the provisions

of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the collection of trade refuse arising from any premises as distinct from house refuse which is a rate-borne service.

The recent revaluation has occasionally led to further dissatisfaction at the suggestion of any charge for such collection.

Nevertheless the number of tradesmen, etc., requesting such a service continues to increase and at the end of the year 70 premises were served in this way. In addition 30 firms or individuals had, at the year's end, an alternative agreement to use the Council's Refuse Tip, which is very conveniently situated near the town centre, for disposal of their trade refuse, at an agreed charge.

The income for these two services is shown in the Table given at the end of this section of the report and shows an increase of £176 over the year 1955/6.

(c) *Transport.*

One new 13 cubic yard side-loading refuse vehicle was brought into service on the 20th February 1957 to replace another vehicle originally purchased in 1936 and this latter vehicle is now used on the Refuse Tip for hauling recovered tins, etc., for salvage purposes. Another redundant vehicle purchased in 1935 was transferred to the Borough Surveyor's Department at the year's end for local use at the Council's Sewage Works.

The Council's policy of purchasing reliable and well-tried vehicles is therefore being well justified.

The remarks in my Annual Report for 1955 regarding vehicle maintenance are still applicable.

Transport costs have inevitably increased by 1s. 2d. per ton due to increases in wages of drivers, increased repair costs, the Suez fuel crisis with the resultant increase in the price of petrol, and an increased contribution to the Vehicle Repairs and Renewals Fund. The latter item alone amounted to a £900 increase over the year 1955/6.

*Disposal.*

As hinted in my report for 1955/6 the Council accepted a recommendation for the purchase of a fully-tracked mechanical dozer in June 1956 and the machine was finally delivered and brought into service at the tip in August.

This machine proved a decided acquisition in more ways than one. Prior to its operation three men had been used in manual control of the tip and had even then been fully occupied. When the dozer came into use one man only was required and moreover a much better job is now being made of sealing and compaction of the tip. Lorries now rarely if ever get stuck on the tip and even if one occasionally does it is but a matter of minutes to haul it clear. In addition insect and fire control is vastly improved.

Over 8 months working in the year the machine has saved £450 in wages alone and has given an increased salvage yield by

allowing one man to be used almost exclusively on salvage recovery from the tip.

Disposal costs now show a net credit figure of 1s. 1d. per ton against a net cost of 1s. 3d. per ton for 1955/6. In fact all disposal costs show a credit figure as shown in the unit costs at the end of this section.

The tip remained free from nuisance during the year and 14,861 tons of refuse were disposed of on the site.

The life of the present tip is now estimated to be 4/5 years and the acquisition of a further site is now becoming vitally necessary.

### *Salvage.*

Salvage activities continued throughout the year and an analysis of the income under various headings is given in the Table at end of this section.

A profit was again made and at £880 approximately shows an increase of £600 or so over that for 1955/6, despite wage increases and a drop of 10s. od. per ton in the price received for waste paper as from 1st April, 1956.

The purchase of the electric power press for waste paper reported in my last Annual Report has now been fully justified and indeed the press has now paid for itself in the space of the two years since its purchase. 442 tons of waste paper and fibre-board were consigned to the mills in the year realising £3,641 as against 290 tons and £2,485 respectively in the previous year.

The salvage of waste food was discontinued as from the end of October, 1956, as it had become increasingly difficult during the year, due to increases in wages, transport, fuel and other items, to make this part of the salvage service self-supporting.

All the equipment was duly advertised for sale and has now been sold, realising some £407.

This service was undoubtedly of great value when it started during the last war and was so in the post-war years up to the end of meat rationing. From then on however although the demand was good it became uneconomical for reasons outlined above. I have never been satisfied however with the idea of communal waste food bins on the streets of the Borough and there is no doubt that the general public was glad to see the removal of these bins which were an eyesore and, despite all the Department's efforts, were undoubtedly at times unhygienic.

It may be worth recording however that since its inception in 1940 to date, no less than 8,883 tons of waste food have been sold to pig farmers. Total salvage recovered during the same period amounted to 19,267 tons which have realised £104,181, a really amazing figure.



**Public Cleansing Service.**  
**Table for the year ended 31st March, 1957.**

Item	Particulars 1	Collection 2	Disposal 3	Totals 4	Percentage of total gross expenditure 5
		£	£	£	%
	<b>REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>				
1.	<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE:</b>				
	(i) Labour ... ..	10,561	2,061	12,622	38
	(ii) Transport ... ..	10,469	1,442	11,911	35
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings ... ..	5,564	738	6,302	19
	(iv) Other items ... ..	2,746	29	2,775	8
	(v) Total gross expenditure ...	29,340	4,270	33,610	100
2.	<b>GROSS INCOME</b> ... ..	1,640	5,079	6,719	—
3.	<b>NET COST</b> ... ..	27,700	809 Cr.	26,891	—
4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue included above ...	—	—	—	—
	<b>UNIT COSTS:</b>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only ...	15 2	2 9	17 11	
6.	Gross cost per ton, transport only	15 0	1 11	16 11	
7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton ... ..	39 9	1 1 Cr.	38 8	
		£	£	£	
8.	Net cost per 1,000 population ...	505	15 Cr.	490	
9.	Net cost per 1,000 premises ...	1,788	52 Cr.	1,736	

### OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10.	Area (statute acres)—land and inland water	...	...	...	3,300 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1956	...	...	...	54,840 persons
12.	Total refuse collected (actual)	...	...	...	13,935 tons
					(Including Item 20(e) below)
13.	Weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	...	...	...	13.9 cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	15,492 premises
15.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly (during year 1956-7)	...	...	...	75% of total
16.	Average haul, single journey to final disposal point	...	...	...	2 miles
17.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	...	...	...	Nil %
18.	Total refuse disposed	...	...	...	14,861 tons
19.	Method of disposal: Controlled tipping	...	...	...	100%
20.	Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:				
			Income (Included in Item 2)		Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
			£		Tons
	(a) Raw Kitchen Waste	...	864		247
	(b) Scrap Metal	...	735		109
	(c) Waste Paper and Fibreboard	...	3,641		442
	(d) Other Salvage	...	25		8
	(e) Totals	...	5,265		806
21.	Trade Refuse	...	690		Not collected separately
22.	Remarks:				
	Gross Income from Sterilised Kitchen Waste (226 tons)	...	...	...	£1,862
	Gross Income from Raw Kitchen Waste (21 tons)	...	...	...	£71
	Total Income from all Kitchen Waste Sales	...	...	...	£1,933

(Waste food salvage discontinued 5.11.56).



*Provision of Dustbins (Rate Fund Scheme).*

This scheme continues to operate satisfactorily and the number provided now seems to have settled down to around 1,800 per year.

Expenditure on this service for the current year and the previous one is given below:—

	1955/6	1956/7
Number of unserviceable bins replaced	1,817	1,810
Cost of dustbins ... ..	£2,726	£3,593
Equivalent rate charge in £...	2.71d. (old valuation)	1½d. (new valuation)

The full effect of the purchase tax placed on dustbins in November 1955 is now being felt and as will be seen caused an extra expenditure of £867 or so during the year under review.

When dustbins are replaced under this scheme the new bin is expected to last at least eight years. The bin provided is an extremely good and robust one and should outlast the period mentioned given reasonable and fair usage. It behoves every householder not to abuse the scheme by burning refuse in the bin or otherwise misusing it, treatment which I am happy to report is not at all common.

**Refuse Tips.**

Once again I have to report that the refuse tip of another Local Authority but situated in this Borough gave rise to nuisance from offensive odours caused by fire and tipping of organic material in water.

The smell from the latter source was particularly bad and gave rise to very bitter complaints which were completely justified.

This Local Authority commenced using a Refuse Incinerator in July 1956 which to some degree mitigated the nuisance but the tip was at no time completely free from nuisance.

**Staff.**

As will be seen from the contents of this report the staff of the Department were fully engaged during the year.

It was, I regret to say, once again necessary to devote attention to certain aspects of our work at the expense of other duties. There is still one unfilled vacancy for an Inspector in the Department and no less than eight advertisements were issued during the year for an Inspector. One application only was received as a result of the advertisements and the applicant, Mr. Wilkes, was duly appointed in May. This appointment merely filled a vacancy caused by the resignation of another Inspector, Mr. Gilpin, who left the Department on the 13th February 1956 on appointment to a position with a neighbouring Authority. The net result therefore was the same.

If a start is to be made on the work of smoke control areas this vacancy will certainly need filling now that slum clearance work is demanding so much time.

One Junior clerk/trainee Inspector resigned and left the employment of the Council on the 31st July and was replaced by Mr. A. G. Sabin on the 22nd October.

In May 1956 the Council approved a pupil training scheme to enable clerks in the Department who are suitably qualified to train for the Public Health Inspector's Certificate. This scheme, it is hoped, will provide Inspectors in the Department in the future. As both pupil/clerks at present have only completed one of their five years training, however, and will then, as things stand at present, be liable for military training, it will be seen that this scheme will take several years to bear any result. Certain financial grants are made under this scheme in accordance with the National Joint Council's Scheme of Conditions of Service for Local Authorities Staffs.

#### Conclusion.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and all Officials of the Council from whom I have received help during the year I tender my grateful thanks.

I would also take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all members of my staff whose work is reflected in this report, and in particular my Deputy, Mr. Keene.

I am,

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. MASON,

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Municipal Buildings,  
Oldbury.

August, 1957.











